

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORTS

HEAVY METTLE

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Imran greets verdict with 'I am overjoyed'

£400,000 libel costs for Lamb and Botham

By TIM JONES

IAN BOTHAM and Allan Lamb were last night facing a bill of up to £400,000 after losing their libel case against the former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan.

The two former England stars were "astonished" by the jury's verdict on their claim that Imran called them cheats and racists. But both insisted that they had no regrets in bringing the case. "How can one regret it? I fought for my dignity and honesty," Botham said.

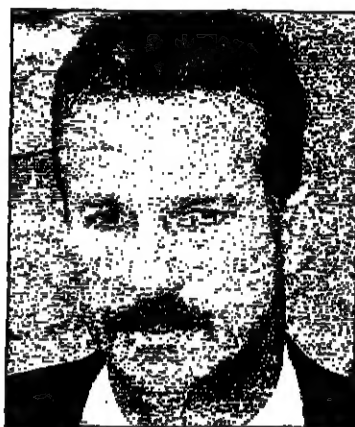
Imran, who said he would have been bankrupted had he lost the case, described the 13-day trial as a nightmare and a complete exercise of futility. "I feel very sorry for Ian Botham," he added.

The jury's majority verdict, after four-and-a-half hours of deliberation, came at the end of a trial that had seen a host of cricket stars and pundits dissecting the vexed question of ball-tampering. Botham had claimed that Imran had accused him of cheating in an article in *The Sun* by suggesting that he interfered with the ball — something Botham said he had never done.

Botham and Lamb also sued over an article in *India Today*, in which they claimed Imran called them racists and attributed their strong line on ball-tampering to their lack of education, class and upbringing.

Imran, who denied libel, said he was misquoted and was trying only to defend himself after admitting that he had used a bottle-top to scratch the ball during a county match 15 years ago.

When the jury brought in its verdict, Botham stared in disbelief and cast a stony glance at Imran before looking quickly away. Imran wiped his face and grasped the wife of his pregnant wife, Jemima, who said: "We've done it." Afterwards, Imran said: "I am over-



Botham: "I fought for my dignity and honesty"

joyed. I thank the Almighty that what I have been saying for two years has been vindicated. I have never called anyone a racist, an underclass or a cheat.

"I am also happy that the Pakistani cricketers have been vindicated because they have been called cheats throughout and I have written to the ICC (the International Cricket Council) to clear up the issue." He hoped that the council would now deal with what he described as "this awful issue of ball-tampering".

But Botham said he was confused by the verdict. Imran had withdrawn his claims of justification and had to admit he (Botham) was not a cheat. "That is why I found it confusing and many other people will find it confusing as well. But life goes on," Lamb also said that he was astonished, but added: "The jury has got to make its decision and you have to accept that. I don't think there are any implications to my reputation."

Some legal sources were estimat-

ing that the trial will have run up costs of about £500,000, most of which will have to be borne by Botham and Lamb although Imran will have to pay something.

Botham said yesterday that the bill was the least of his worries — he would just have to take part in more "Beefy and Lambby" roadshows where the pair tour cricket clubs to entertain paying guests. His assets include a five-bedroom farmhouse in north Yorkshire and a cottage in Alderney. He is understood to have signed a contract with the *Daily Mirror* to tell his story.

Lamb is in the middle of a testimonial year with Northamptonshire, which could well give him £300,000. He also has a book coming out soon which will again air the ball-tampering issue.

Imran, whose father-in-law is the millionaire businessman Sir James Goldsmith, said last night that he would have been penniless had he lost the case. "Most of the money I had made from cricket I gave to the cancer hospital. The rest would have gone today. I would have been bankrupt."

He now wanted to return to Pakistan and work for his political group, the Justice Party. The case had been "a complete exercise of futility. I mean a ridiculous situation to be involved in when I have something much more important in Pakistan."

He said he had written to both Lamb and Botham saying there had been a misunderstanding and he had offered to write an open letter saying that he did not call them cheats or racists. "But I could not let them make me apologise for something I hadn't said. I would rather die than apologise for something I didn't do."

Intractable foes, page 4



Imran Khan with his wife Jemima after his victory. But he may still have to pay £100,000 costs

Howard ready to overrule Tories on gun ban

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL HOWARD is expected to override Conservative MPs' objections and ban private ownership of handguns if the Dunblane massacre inquiry says he should.

The Home Secretary has let it be known that he will bring forward a Bill to implement new gun controls should Lord Cullen — as seems inevitable — put forward proposals that require legislation. The Government expects his report in late September.

Other ministers also distanced themselves from the Commons Home Affairs Committee decision that a handgun ban would be impractical, while Labour MPs and the Dunblane families accused the six Conservatives on the committee of being scared of losing votes.

Ian Taylor, a spokesman for the families, said: "Who on earth do these Tories think they are? These MPs are prepared to stand in the way of a safer Britain just to help out their friends who enjoy shooting. It is sick."

And Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said: "The select committee would have been better drawing their conclusions in the light of the Cullen report."

Although Mr Howard would face a Commons revolt among Conservative MPs, any move to impose a ban would be certain to be carried with Labour support. There would be exceptions to cover humane killing by farmers and vets, and safeguards for sportsmen. Ammunition would be allowed only on shooting ranges and guns would have to be disabled before being taken away.

The Dunblane killer, Thomas Hamilton, held his guns legally and MPs believe that even if Lord Cullen does not go

Continued on page 2, col 3

Britain's teenage sailor has to settle for silver

FROM EDWARD GORMAN AND JOHN GOODBODY IN ATLANTA

BEN AINSLIE, Britain's youngest-ever Olympic yachtsman, saw his hopes of a gold medal in the Laser class dashed yesterday as both he and his rival, Robert Scheidt of Brazil, were disqualified from the last race after Scheidt lured him early over the starting line.

However, Ainslie, 19, secured the silver after an agonising wait to see if Peer Moberg of Norway, who was lying in third place overall, could snatch it from him by winning the race.

Tim Henman, the British hero at Wimbledon, and his partner Neil Broad are also assured of at least a silver

medal after reaching the finals of the men's tennis doubles. The pair defeated David Prinosil and Mark-Kevin Goeblner of Germany 6-4, 3-6, 10-8 in the semi-final.

In another British success



"There is a 24-hour stoppage - we apologise for any inconvenience"

yesterday, Max Sciandri finished third in the men's cycling road race. In a three-way sprint at the end of the 139-mile event, Sciandri was edged out by Pascal Richard of Switzerland, the winner, and Kevin Sorenson of Denmark.

Kevin Hickey, the technical officer of the British Olympic Association added to the controversy over the poor performances overall by the British team, saying: "We can get out all the excuses you like and throw in all the bad luck, but we are a mediocrity."

In athletics, Sonia O'Sullivan, Ireland's hope for a 1500-metre gold medal failed to qualify for the final because of diarrhoea. On a bleak day for the Irish, Marie McMahon who finished 14th in a heat of the 5000 metres in 15mins.59.12secs was revealed to have failed a drugs test.

Reports, pages 40-42, 44

Killer jailed

A family celebrated the end of an 18-year campaign for justice last night as a teenager's killer was jailed for life. Michael Brookes was convicted by an Old Bailey jury of the stabbing of Lynn Siddons. Brookes, 51, had blamed his stepson for the killing in 1978. Page 3

Lottery criticism

Virginia Bottomley tried to head off fresh demands for the resignation of Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, after a Commons committee criticised him for taking free flights in America on the corporate aircraft of a firm that has a big stake in Camelot. Page 8

£80m windfall

Fifty former British Rail managers and staff were yesterday celebrating an £80 million profit from selling Porterbrook, a train leasing company they acquired six months ago, to Stagecoach, the bus operator. Porterbrook leases out about a quarter of British Rail's former fleet of trains. Page 23

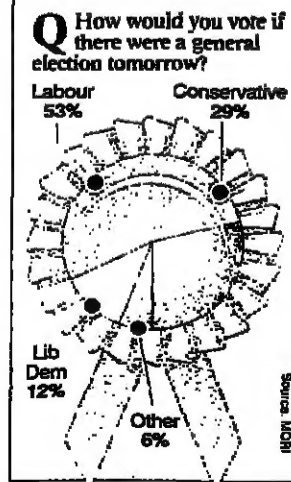
Shadow Cabinet furore hits Blair

By PETER RIDDELL

TONY BLAIR'S personal approval rating has fallen to its lowest level since he was elected Labour leader two years ago, with a particularly sharp drop among his own party supporters, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. This follows the row over the Shadow Cabinet elections and Mr Blair's handling of the subsequent reshuffle and demotion of Clare Short.

The poll, undertaken between the middle of last week and Sunday, confirms that Labour retains its commanding overall lead as the Tories have lost half the big gain they achieved during June.

Mr Blair's approval rating — measuring those satisfied and less dissatisfied with his performance — stands at plus 11 points, compared with plus 19 a month ago. His rating has fallen even more sharply among Labour supporters, from plus 57 to plus 44. This probably reflects concern



about his assertive leadership style and his treatment of Labour party critics.

His approval rating also fell a year ago when there was criticism of him by left-wing

Continued on page 2, col 5

Lily the stink loses its 33-year reputation by a nose

By JANE MACQUITT

WINE CORRESPONDENT

THE stinking lily of Kew Gardens finally came into flower yesterday, and proved a red herring. Its allegedly awful fishy smell was noticeable only by its almost complete absence.

The titan arum, which last flowered at Kew 33 years ago, is supposed to

have a nauseating stench of rotting fish or decaying human flesh so overpowering that in its native Indonesia it is known as the "corpse flower".

Yesterday, though, the overwhelming smell in the Princess of Wales Conservatory was of a sweaty public queueing on a hot July afternoon for a whiff of the plant.

Attendances at the Royal Botanic

Gardens had already trebled over normal expectations by Tuesday, and yesterday afternoon a queue stretched more than 70 yards. The titan arum displayed similar plant power in crowd-pulling when it last flowered in Kew in 1889, 1926 and 1963.

Once inside the conservatory no one was turning left as usually required to see the giant waterlily. Instead

everyone was making a bee-line for the titan arum whose Latin name, *amorphophallus titanum*, gives a clue to its most striking attribute.

With the 4ft-high primrose-yellow spadix rearing upward from the inflorescence's centre, the titan arum is assuredly no shrinking violet. But in the smell department it proved a non-

Continued on page 2, col 5

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Gun law: Tories put themselves in firing line

Weapon ban rebels feel full force of public fury

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

POLITICIANS from all sides were yesterday trying to puzzle out why six backbench Tory MPs had defied public opinion and refused to back a ban on handguns.

The six, who sit on the Home Affairs Select Committee, were vilified yesterday for blocking the ban in the face of pressure for action after the Dunblane massacre. They were accused of being "sick, unacceptable and disgusting".

Teachers complained and the father of a child killed by Thomas Hamilton said: "I hope they can live with themselves. They are living in a cocoon."

Some Tories were horrified that their colleagues were making the party look soft on crime. They had little sympathy for the MPs. None of the six — Sir Ivan Lawrence, David Ashby, Walter Sweeney, John Greenway, Dame Jill Knight and Warren Hawksley — are natural rebels.

David Mellor, the former Home Office Minister, said their decision had been profoundly damaging. "They are mistaken, and I think there is a serious danger now of the Conservative Party at all levels losing the plot on this very serious matter." Although some traditionalist or libertarian Tories backed their stance, none was prepared to say so publicly yesterday.

The backbenchers had no political pressure on them. Ever since Tony Blair and John Major visited Dunblane together, the massacre is meant to have been a non-partisan issue. But select committees are also expected to reach a consensus — and the six Tories used their majority to overrule five Labour MPs who supported a ban.

The parents of the 16 children killed in the massacre have all demanded a ban. 725,000 people have signed a petition for one, and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is known to be pressurising Cabinet colleagues to make space for a



Sweeney



Hawksley



Greenway



Ashby



Lawrence



Knight

Bill this autumn to ban handguns.

Four of the six Tories were on holiday or "staying with friends" and unavailable yesterday. Mr Greenway said that once the Tory MPs had looked at the issue dispassionately they realised a ban would be impractical. He accused his Labour colleagues of leaking the committee's report.

For three months police

officers, victims' parents and firearms instructors gave extensive evidence to the committee. The British Association of Shooting and Conservation, British Field Sports Association, National Rifle Association and the Muzzle Loaders Association all made representations for the 250,000 legal owners of handguns.

Mr Hawksley said he had come under no pressure from

the gun lobby. "I personally believe it would be tricky to ban guns. After all they are one of the oldest sports at the Olympics and some people do need to own one. Also there are so many illegal guns around from places like the Eastern bloc that a madman could easily get hold of one if he wanted anyway," he said.

The Labour members of the committee are furious but are not allowed to comment until the report is published later this month. One claimed: "The Tories were almost drooling over the gun lobby, none of them asked any difficult questions."

In a heated meeting last Wednesday, just before the report was finalised, the Labour MPs thought they could swing one or two of the Tories. "There was blood on the floor over this. But it became increasingly clear that they had made some sort of pact with each other to stick together," said a Labour MP.

Labour are now going to publish their own minority report. "The committee is so divided I don't know how we are going to meet up in October without coming to blows," one said.

Alun Michael, Labour home affairs spokesman, said yesterday: "I have no idea what was going on in the Tories' minds but it is bizarre that they all came to the same conclusion — the gun lobby must be congratulating themselves."

Meanwhile, the shooting lobby is fighting a defensive battle to focus attention on the individual seeking to use a gun rather than the weapon itself. Two major lobbying campaigns are mobilising support in preparation for the publication of Lord Cullen's report in the next few weeks and to influence MPs for legislation expected in the next session of Parliament.

The British Shooting Sports Council, which represents the UK's 900,000 shooters, has been discreetly lobbying MPs and the media during the last few weeks.

Magnus Linklater, page 16



Sir David Attenborough peers into the titan arum flower, the world's largest

Lily the stink loses by a nose

Continued from page 1

Few who came to inhale its noxious odours were able to detect anything. I submitted the plant to a complete organoleptic analysis at close quarters, being permitted to put my head into the ruff formed by the creamy lime-green spathe. I detected faint scents, in waves, of fresh fish and an undertone of decaying meat. The smell was strongest just inside the blood-red rim of the spathe, when my nose was between the spathe and the phallic spadix.

Geoff Kite, researcher in plant chemistry at Kew, con-

firmed my findings. Using aroma collectors with absorbents to capture the scents for analysis in a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer, he has so far isolated two compounds, dimethyl disulphide and dimethyl trisulphide. Both chemicals are found in the putrescent stinkhorn fungus and the woodoo lily.

He confirmed the arum releases its odours in pulsing waves, the spadix heating up as white female flowers and pink male flowers become ready for pollination.

Derek Lewis, of Kew's press office, said: "For four days

people have been asking us when it is going to open. Now they are asking when it is going to smell!" There is still hope. David Attenborough says the male flowers only open on the second night, so the eagerly awaited pong may be more noticeable today.

In its native Sumatran rain forest, the flowers should be pollinated by beetles and sweat bees.

Yesterday Kew's specimen had attracted granny gardeners, eager children and keen horticulturalists in droves — but from the insect world only a single small flying ant.

Clinton praises loyalist ceasefire

By TOM RHODES
AND NICHOLAS WATT

LOYALIST paramilitaries were praised by President Clinton yesterday for maintaining their 22-month ceasefire in the face of renewed IRA terrorism. In a statement on Northern Ireland, he called on the IRA to end its campaign of violence.

He also urged nationalists and loyalists to treat each other with "dignity and respect" during the rest of the marching season.

Mr Clinton has been under increasing pressure from nationalist supporters in Congress to press Whitehall to organise meetings with Sinn Féin. The Administration has remained resolutely behind both London and Dublin in its requirement that the IRA must decommission before joining talks.

Mr Clinton's call came as John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, spoke over the telephone about the next contentious loyalist parade, due in Londonderry on August 10.

The two leaders expressed their hope that nationalists and loyalists in the city would reach a local accommodation to avoid violence. A Downing Street spokesman described the 20-minute conversation as "entirely friendly".

The conversation was seen as an attempt by the two to mend fences after Mr Bruton launched a scathing attack on the Government last month over the Orange march through Drumcree.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, announced yesterday that Dr Peter North, QC, the vice chancellor of Oxford University, would chair the independent review which would examine contentious parades. The Government set up the review after the widespread disturbances throughout Northern Ireland last month after the stand-off at Drumcree.

Dr North, 59, said yesterday that he faced an important task. He will begin his work next month after the end of the marching season.

THE MAIN OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

The struggle to tighten gun controls revolves around two key points: whether to impose a ban on possession of handguns or to introduce tougher restrictions on the issuing of licences for firearms. The options under discussion are:

Ban on the private ownership of handguns: About 57,000 people hold firearms certificates for 200,000 handguns. The Dunblane parents, Labour Party, Gun Control Network and some Chief Constables support total prohibition. The six Conservative members of the Home Affairs Select Committee, British Shooting Sports Council and Police Superintendents' Association oppose.

Ban on handguns other than those chambered for .22 calibre or lower: Would not affect British shooters' ability to take part in international sporting competitions. Backed by Dunblane parents, Labour Party, Gun Control Network and Chief Constables. Opposed by British Shooting Sports Council, umbrella organisation for 900,000 shooters. This option would remove from circulation about 90 per cent of handguns currently held legally.

Tighter controls over issue of firearms certificates: Obtaining information about applicant's medical history. Supported by the Chief Constables, shooting lobby, Home Affairs Select Committee, British Medical Association opposes: doctors would have to make judgments about a person's fitness to have guns.

References rather than counter-signatories on application for licence: Backed by Chief Constables, Home Affairs Select Committee, Labour Party, shooting lobby and Police Superintendents' Association and Firearms Consultative Council, government's firearms watchdog.

Sale of guns and ammunition to be restricted: This would ban the advertising of guns and ammunition on a mail order basis. Supported by Labour, Gun Control Network, Dunblane parents. Opposed by shooting lobby.

Ban on deactivated and replica weapons: Backed by Labour and Gun Control Network, but opposed by shooting lobby. No evidence that properly deactivated weapons have ever been reactivated.

Handgun ban

Continued from page 1

as far as a total ban there will be vastly tighter controls. An informed source said: "Anything that Lord Cullen recommends will carry huge weight. It will be very hard for us, having asked him to do the inquiry, to turn down anything he suggests."

A consensus has emerged on plans to take 90 per cent of the 200,000 handguns out of circulation, with chief constables and the Labour Party saying that guns should be used only for legal sport and that all pistols above .22 calibre be prohibited.

The row over the select committee's decision is a big embarrassment to ministers, and the thought of having to rely on Labour MPs to enforce a law and order measure fills them with dread.

But yesterday John Greenway, one of the six Tories, defended the decision, saying on BBC Radio 4's *Today*: "We took the view that it is not legally-held firearms that cause the problem in this country. It is the way that firearms certificates are issued where the law needs to be strengthened."

"While we entirely understood why people might want

to ban handguns in the light of Dunblane, you have got to sit down and look dispassionately at what that would mean, what the effect would be, and would it in all honesty prevent that kind of incident happening again in the future? We came to the balanced view that it would not."

The five Labour members on the committee are planning a minority report calling for a ban, and the party's home affairs spokesman, Alun Michael, said yesterday that the Tory MPs "must have taken leave of their senses".

The former Home Office minister David Mellor was also disappointed in his Tory colleagues. "I think they are mistaken, and I think there is a serious danger now of the Conservative Party at all levels losing the plot on this very serious matter," he said.

"There is no doubt the public wants a ban on handguns. What we are trying to take out are the heavy calibre handguns, the sort of Clint Eastwood type guns, which are an American accretion on our way of life."

"If we want to import the American way of life, we've got to come to terms with the American way of death."

Blair

Continued from page 1

MPs. It then recovered quickly, so the latest drop in his rating could also be temporary. Moreover, Mr Blair's overall public rating remains more favourable than that of John Major or Paddy Ashdown.

The voting-intention figures confirm Labour's strong overall position with at most nine months to go before the next election. Labour is now on 53 per cent, up one since late June. The Tories slipped two points during July to 29 per cent. This follows their four-point jump during June to 31 per cent, when there was much talk about the "feel-good" factor and the impact of England's early success in the Euro '96 football championship. The Liberal Democrats remain on 12 per cent.

There are signs of a gradual improvement in the Tory position, but it is very slow, and the party will have to achieve an unprecedented recovery if it is to win a fourth term.

MORI interviewed 1,928 adults at 149 ward sampling points between July 23 and 28. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to say (3 per cent).

You could win with Labour, Blair tells Olympic squad

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR promised that a Labour Government would go for gold yesterday after listening to a catalogue of complaints from top sportsman by satellite link to Atlanta. He spoke as Britain looked likely to record its worst performance at an Olympics in more than 40 years.

Mr Blair said he would be setting up an urgent review to assist Britain's future Olympic hopefuls, promised to make sport a major national priority, and said that Britain under Labour could bring home the medals from the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur and the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

The Tories — who benefited in the polls from the English football team's success in Euro 96 — immediately accused Mr Blair of "cynical opportunism". They are worried that Britain's poor performance in Atlanta will weaken any new "feel-good" factor.

Addressing athletes from the British Olympic Association HQ in Wandsworth,

south London, the Labour leader said: "Sport is a national asset and an investment for the whole country." Mr Major was asked if he would like to take part in the link-up but declined.

Mr Blair was told by Dick Palmer, the BOA chairman who is due to meet Mr Major next week, that sport was "muddling through due to too few resources — we need at our disposal people like physiologists, scientists and nutritionists to be able to properly prepare and compete." Mr Palmer, the gold-medallist oarsman, told the Labour leader it was a "disgrace" for the Olympic team to be sponsored only by private companies.

Mr Blair refused to pledge more money, but said: "I think we have got to decide from now on that as a country we are going to treat this as a major national priority. When we do well as a country, the whole country benefits, business benefits, the whole area of national life is opened up in

a way that I think isn't often appreciated."

Virginia Bottomley has stayed away from the Olympics, but Dr Jack Cunningham, the shadow secretary for National Heritage, who is in Atlanta, said: "Britain used to be at the forefront of sporting prowess and achievement. The talent and desire has been undermined through 17 years of neglect."

Derek Casey, chief executive of the Sports Council, said: "We wholeheartedly agree with the comments coming out of Atlanta. The Sports Council believes that competitors representing their country should not suffer financially, and are determined to provide them with a new start."

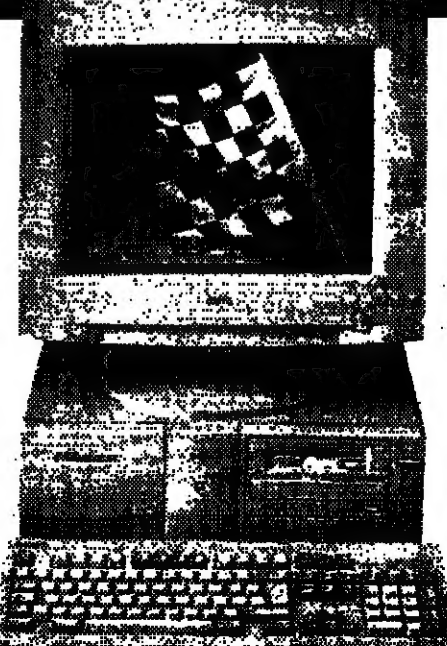
The Conservatives said that more money would soon be available from the Lottery Sports Fund, which currently received £300 million a year, and was already dramatically improving sports facilities.

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I have finally got justice, says grandmother who refused to let murderer live in peace

Victim's family see killer jailed after 18-year fight

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FAMILY celebrated the end of an 18-year campaign for justice last night as a teen-ager's killer was jailed for life. Lynn Siddons showed no emotion as an Old Bailey jury convicted him of the frenzied slaying of her daughter, Lynn Siddons, in 1978.



Lynn Siddons with her grandmother, Florence

Mr Justice Raftery said the jury had heard that the boy, who was 16 at the time, had been driven to the crime by a "frenzied" state of mind. He said the boy had been "driven to the crime by a frenzied state of mind."

The jury was not told how the campaign had reached a previous high point in 1991. In a unprecedented ruling over a civil action brought by the family, Mr Justice Raftery had named Brooks as the killer and awarded damages against him of £10,641.

Lynn Siddons was a pretty, outgoing girl raised by her grandmother in Salford, Derby. At the time of the murder, she had been due to start work as a packer at Derby Co-operative Society, her first job after leaving school. Instead, she was stabbed 43 times and asphyxiated after being lured to the banks of the Trent and Mersey Canal.

When she failed to return home, police assumed she must be with a boyfriend, but the Siddons family mounted their own search, speaking several times to the Brooks family who lived nearby, scouring woods and hedges, and broadcasting an appeal for information at a Derby County football match. Six days after the murder, the body was found in bushes by three boys looking for a stick to throw for their dog.



Michael Brooks: he put blame on timid stepson

near-neighbour, but then claimed that his bullying stepfather instigated the killing and dealt the fatal blows before strangling her. The boy was acquitted by a jury in Nottingham after deliberations lasting 20 minutes. He said that his stepfather had a knife fixation, regularly stabbed pictures of women in men's magazines, and had threatened to murder his mother unless he lured Lynn into the woods.

Mrs Siddons and her daughter, Gail Halford—who had Lynn at 16—organised poster campaigns, marches to the local police station and a personal campaign against Brooks, who moved house to Peterborough and took on a different name to try to flee their attentions.

Attempts were made to have him charged, but the DPP refused to order a trial, on the grounds that Fitzroy was an accomplice and therefore potentially an unreliable witness, that Brooks's wife, Dot, could not be forced to give evidence against him and that other evidence was largely hearsay. Derbyshire police, who lost clothing and a knife found buried in the garden of his former home, accepted criticism of the way they handled the case.

At times the family went beyond the law. In 1981, Lynn's aunt, Cynthia Smith, drove her car at Brooks and his wife in the street. She was convicted of reckless driving and fined £100.

The family kept the case in the headlines by lodging a claim for criminal compensation, which brought an offer of £27 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. In 1984, Mrs Siddons lodged a complaint against Derbyshire police about their handling of the case, securing an investigation by the Merseyside Constabulary. This produced a two-part report recommending that an outside force should start a fresh murder enquiry, but Derbyshire refused to accept it.

The family wrote to newspapers and MPs, advertised for information and collected a petition with 6,000 signatures calling for the case to be reopened. Funds were partly raised by sponsored walks and bring-and-buy sales. Mrs Siddons called Brooks a murderer to his face in the street and at other times simply sat outside his house.

but released, should have been on the original charge sheet with his stepson. Police sources accept that they were too quickly convinced that Fitzroy Brooks was the sole perpetrator. Scene-of-crime searches were said not to have been as thorough as they should have been.

Brooks was charged with murder in 1992. It took a further four years of legal argument—which went as far as the House of Lords—before he was brought to trial. A spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday: "The CPS realised from the start of this prosecution in 1992 that a number of legal and evidential challenges would have to be met.

This has proved to be the case. Over the last four years, the CPS has kept the evidence under continuous review and has been satisfied that there was sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction and it was in the public interest to proceed."

Last night Mr Newing said: "I would like to pay tribute to Lynn's family. Her grandmother's courage and commitment have been remarkable. Without her it is unlikely this matter would have been brought before an Old Bailey jury. Justice has finally been done. The tragedy is that nothing is going to bring Lynn back."

THE LONG STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

April 3, 1978: Lynn Siddons stabbed and asphyxiated beside the Trent and Mersey Canal in Derbyshire.
April 9: Body found by boys looking for a stick to throw for their dog.
November 9: Fitzroy Brooks cleared by a jury of her murder.
November 10: Lynn's grandmother, Florence Siddons, pledges to find her killer.
June 1984: Mrs Siddons lodges complaint about Derbyshire police's handling of the murder inquiry, which is investigated by the Merseyside force.
June 1985: Derbyshire rejects Merseyside's recommendation for a fresh investigation by an outside force.
November 1989: High Court rules that family's civil action for damages cannot proceed because it is outside legal time limit.
November 26, 1990: Court of Appeal rules that the action can go ahead.
September 30, 1991: Mr Justice Raftery rules in the damages claim that Michael Brooks killed Lynn.
December 11: The judge awards £10,000 damages against Brooks.
September 26, 1995: Brooks is committed for trial.
June 21, 1996: His trial for murder begins at the Old Bailey.

Tabloids cleared of contempt in Knights coverage

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FIVE tabloid newspapers were cleared yesterday of prejudicing the trial of Geoffrey Knights, boyfriend of the East-Enders actress Gillian Taylor, in a test case which has serious repercussions for the law of contempt.

Mr Knights's trial for assault was halted by the judge last year after reports in the Daily Mail, the Daily Mirror, The Sun, the Daily Star and Today. The newspapers had commented on his violent past, including assaults on Taylor, who plays Kathy Mitchell in the television soap opera.

Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Smedley found that the stories were not prejudicial because Knights had been in the public eye for at least two years, with regular articles about his past including an assault on a policeman and another on a business partner.

Lord Justice Schiemann said that, despite some exaggeration in the coverage of the injuries inflicted by Mr Knights, "it is difficult to see how any one of the publications in April and May of 1995 created any greater risk of serious prejudice than that which had already been created."

The Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, is expected to seek leave to challenge the decision in the House of Lords after being refused leave to appeal. Philip Havers, his counsel, said it set a dangerous precedent. Sir Nicholas brought the proceedings in a move to seek a clear definition of the increasingly blurred boundaries of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

The judges ruled that in no individual case could a newspaper be found guilty of breaching the contempt laws. However, there can be prejudicial collective coverage, but the case highlighted the inadequacy of the law to tackle it.

Sir Nicholas has come under fire for not taking a robust enough line against newspapers and has faced judicial review proceedings for failure to act over press coverage. At the same time there has been increasing tension between the media's wish to publish and the law of contempt.

The proceedings against Mr Knight, who was charged with assaulting Miss Taylor's driver, Martin Davies, as he helped her to move out of their home, cannot be reinstated.

Clive Anderson takes chat from Channel 4 to the BBC

By CAROL MIDGLEY

CLIVE ANDERSON has defected from Channel 4 to BBC1 to present a new chat show hailed as a "major coup" in the corporation's £162 million autumn ratings battle with ITV.

Mr Anderson, who attended yesterday's launch, insisted there had been no ill feeling with Channel 4. He remains with the station in a new series of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and is negotiating with him over other projects.

He said: "I hope they are not upset. It's not as though I have just done a show, been discovered then said, 'Thanks very much I'm running.'"

A Channel 4 spokesman said: "There is no bitterness, but it is difficult to see how the show can be much improved on."

Anderson's move to the BBC follows Channel 4's decision to drop Gaby Roslin's weekly chat show after bad reviews. Anderson said: "People have

been saying that the chat show is a dead form, but I do what I do and, if people want to watch, that's great."

BBC1 is relying on the eight-part *Rhodes* to lead its autumn schedule, which features 85 hours of new drama and 24 fresh comedy and variety shows. ITV has also placed heavy emphasis on drama in its schedules, with productions of Jane Austen's *Emma* and Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders*.

A record number of people tuned in for Lifford Christie's ill-fated attempt to retain his Olympic gold medal in the 100 metres final on Sunday morning, the BBC said.

The 5.6 million viewers beat the previous highest for an early-morning broadcast: 4.2 million for *Children in Need* in 1992. Despite Christie's disqualification, three million were still watching at 2am.

Pigs fly home to save their bacon

By NICHOLAS WATT

A GROUP of little piggies went to market yesterday to compete against each other in a 100-metre hurdle race. Hoggwash—named after the Agriculture Minister—Desert Pordick, Richard Dunpiggy and Lester Piggit were among those competing over five 12m hurdles at the Clogher Valley Agricultural Show in rural Co Tyrone.

Before the start of each race, the piggies, all less than eight weeks old, squealed as stewards ushered them into little cages. As they set off the theme tune from *Rocky* blared out of loudspeakers.

Lester Piggit won the first race to the delight of punters who had hoped it would emulate its namesake. But there was an even greater cheer when Mary Porkers, the porcine version of Ulster's most distinguished Olympian, sailed past Lifford Christie Bacon to take the fifth

race. Walter Shorti, who organised the race, said: "The pigs really enjoyed themselves—they like getting out for a bit of sun."

The race organisers tried to ensure that the piggies were comfortable after protests from animal welfare groups. Electric fans cooled down them and an inspector from the Ulster Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals monitored the races.

Mr Shorti, who normally sells farm feed, trained the pigs for two days before the races. Asked the inevitable question, he said: "I really think pigs can fly. They were up in the air."

At the end of the races, the man from the Ulster Pork and Bacon Forum, which funded the race, made clear why the piggies had been put through their paces. Robert Overend, the forum's chairman, told the crowd: "These really are top-



Striking ahead: one of the piggies leads the field

class, healthy pigs. So when you are next sitting down to Sunday lunch, I want you to think of eating pork and bacon."

Richard Dunpiggy won the final of the competition last

night. The piggies' biggest prize was a reprieve—for the time being, at least. Mr Shorti said that they would be used for breeding.

Leading article, page 17

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Carman: master fixer

Carman scores at cricket after last year's soccer own goal

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE CARMAN, QC, crowned his reputation as king of libel yesterday when he pulled off victory for Imran Khan in true master-fixer style. Lawyers had betted on a win for Botham and a loss for Mr Carman's client, a view that hardened after the ninth day of the case when Imran withdrew his ball-tampering allegation and apologised to the court.

"Usually when that happens,"

one libel solicitor said, "it indicates you are on the run." But true to form, silver-tongued Mr Carman defied the odds and secured a win which was as much wanted by himself as his client.

Had he lost, his reputation might have looked just a touch dented. Though rarely on the losing side, it was only last summer that he was offered a taste of defeat at the hands of Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, who defended Graham Southey in his libel action against *The People*. That was last in people's minds,

despite securing before that an unrivalled list of triumphs, for Elton John, Richard Branson, Jason Connery and Ken Dodd — to name a few. So the battle in court was just as much a contest between the top libel silks on each side — "Gorgeous" George, as he is known, and the smooth and brilliant Charles Gray — as between the cricketers.

Andrew Stephenson, of Peter Carter Ruck & Partners, said the jury verdict confirmed Mr Carman's standing at the libel bar.

"Carman's presence before a jury and his skills as an advocate were never really in doubt and this verdict has underlined it."

Cross-examination and putting over a point to the jury in a simple, down-to-earth way, are his particular skills. But early on in the trial, it seemed as though Botham had out-bowled him when he fielded Mr Carman's questions with wit and skill.

Mr Carman used his favoured tactic however of effectively exploiting every weakness in his oppo-

nent's case — with Botham, all aspects of his past life including sex and drugs. Why, he asked Botham, had the cricketer not sued over allegations in the past in the *News of the World*? The paper, Botham said, was "at the end of the day only the *News of the World*".

Mr Carman challenged him further, insisting that the paper had a higher circulation than *India Today*, in which Botham alleged Imran had libelled him. Not in India, Botham replied.

But last night Mr Carman's

rather greater advocacy experience had clearly paid off. His costs, which have totalled £500,000, even though Imran will not recover the considerable part of the costs — perhaps third — associated with the withdrawn allegation of tampering with the ball. Yesterday Imran said the costs would bankrupt him if he had lost.

Mr Carman's chambers had brief champagne celebration when he went home. "It has been exhausting two weeks," one of his clerks commented.

Defeated pair face another tour

Courtroom conflict that neither side thought of losing

By IVO TENNANT

IT SAYS much about the intractable natures of Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Allan Lamb that none of them began their High Court contretemps in a position which they could afford to lose. They had never contemplated defeat on the cricket field and they did not countenance it now. Only this time the man of the match award had different implications.

A fellow fast bowler once memorably declared that Imran was more interested in money than cricket — and more keen on women than either — but the reality for Botham and Lamb is that they came from a less affluent background. And their fathers-in-law do not have the resources of Sir James Goldsmith. They had a different upbringing.

One of the main grievances of Botham and Lamb was that they felt that the Oxford-educated Imran was looking down his aristocratic nose at them. Not on the field of play, where they rarely had the better of each other, but off it. Ultimately we heard less of this in the High Court than of the complexities of ball-tampering. At the heart of the issue, though, were class, race and education.

Imran has long been rather sloppily described as having an aristocratic background. This is about as misleading

as describing Tottenham Hotspur as the aristocrats of English football. His forebears were not landed gentry but Pathans who were tribesmen. They did not partake of afternoon tea with one another. The first cousins traditionally hate each other: Imran, indeed, has not been on speaking terms with Majid Khan, who was also a great cricketer, since 1982.

Imran's fiercely anti-colonial father, Ikramulla Niazi, was an engineer living in Zaman Park, a well-to-do suburb of Lahore. He owns 400 acres of sugar cane, wheat and other crops, sited some distance from the city. Imran says his father did not know about the major public schools in England, entrusting his son's education to the Royal Grammar School in Worcester, a city that Imran soon found to be thoroughly dull.

That Imran went to Oxford — he gained an A and a C in his A-levels and was turned down by Cambridge, Majid's old university — owed much to his tutor at Keble College, Dr Paul Hayes, having a keen interest in admitting sportsmen. It was not, however, until after Imran had left with a second-class grade for politics and a third for economics, and had gained renown as a cricketer, that he began to socialise extensively in London. Good-looking and,

by 1982, captain of his country, he realised that he was often invited to parties to be displayed as a kind of trophy.

It is quite evident from Imran's choice of friends to which circles he likes to mix in. Oliver Gilmour, Lord Gilmour's son, Susannah Constantine, former girlfriend of Viscount Linley, and Mark Shand, brother of Camilla Parker-Bowles and best man at his wedding to Jemima Goldsmith, are but three examples. He has never dined alone with an English cricketer and abhors pubs. He could scarcely be more removed in such tastes from Botham and Lamb, who like nothing better than a drink with their teammates at close of play.

As to his personal finances, Imran owns a flat in South Kensington and lives with his wife on the top floor of his father's house when in Pakistan. He has a modest income from journalism. His time in Lahore is spent at the cancer hospital he founded in honour of his mother, to which he has given about £200,000. He is also looking to further his political ambitions.

For Imran, there was the apparent safety net of the Goldsmith millions. Botham and Lamb will now have to rely on making money from articles for the tabloid press, books and tours of their two-man talk show.



Ian Botham, left, and Allan Lamb: race, class and education were at the heart of their ill-fated legal action against Imran Khan

Wife who could win Imran a bigger victory

By JOANNA BALE

IMRAN KHAN paid tribute last night to his wife, who is expecting a baby, for her unstinting support throughout his 13-day libel hearing. Standing outside the High Court, he said: "I'm really happy with the way Jemima took this in her state because there was a tremendous amount of pressure on her."

A Pakistani journalist had even more praise: "She won it for Imran and she will probably win the election

for him too in Pakistan, despite being English. She has embraced Islam and will make a wonderful First Lady. This has been her finest hour so far."

The 22-year-old daughter of the businessman Sir James Goldsmith had been a constant presence by the side of the former Pakistan cricket captain, now an aspiring politician, often holding his hand and whispering words of encouragement.

Demure in traditional Muslim dress, she often took notes and consulted with lawyers on behalf of

her husband throughout the hearing. At one point, she was heard berating Imran in a corridor outside Court 13 after he admitted that he could not justify accusing Botham of ball-tampering and apologised to the former England captain during cross-examination by Botham's QC, Charles Gray. In court, her whispering sometimes met with a fierce "Sssh" from her husband.

As the jury returned its verdict yesterday, the couple sat close together holding hands, apparently awaiting

the worst. When the foreman told the court that they had found for the defendant, Imran and his wife looked as if they could hardly believe it. Imran looked stunned. It was only when his wife, swathed in a long purple dress, smiled at her husband and whispered "We've done it" that he began to beam.

The costs settled, the court rose, and Imran and his wife turned to congratulate their legal team. Botham and his co-plaintiff, Allan Lamb, and their wives sat in silence.

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Dixons There's a great deal going on

Jet case verdict is hard to understand, says minister

By KATE ALDERSON

A MINISTER is seeking urgent talks with the Home Office and the Attorney-General after a jury in Liverpool cleared a group of women of causing £1.5 million damage to a British Aerospace Hawk jet destined for Indonesia.

Michael Jack, a Treasury Minister and MP for Fylde, Lancashire, said yesterday: "I, and I am sure many others, find this jury's decision difficult to understand. It would appear there is little question about who did this damage. For whatever reason that damage was done. It was just plain wrong."

"The ramifications of the case are, however, very important in terms of future security, jobs and the question of being able to do damage and getting off with it."

On Tuesday, the jury at Liverpool Crown Court cleared Lotta Krumlitz, 28, Andrea Needham, 30, and Joanna Wilson, 33, of causing criminal damage to the jet at a BAE factory at Warton, near Preston, in January. They and a fourth defendant, Angela Zeller, 45, were cleared of conspiring to damage the jet.

The women admitted in

court to breaking into a hangar and using hammers to damage the £10 million plane. They pleaded not guilty to the charges, however, claiming their actions were justified. The jury accepted the women's claim that they had a lawful excuse to damage the aircraft because they were using reasonable force to prevent a greater crime. They said that by disarming the jet, one of a consignment of 24 bought by Indonesia, it could not be used in the crime of genocide against the civilian population in East Timor.

BAE later announced that it had served injunctions on the women to "prevent further interference with its business". However, at a news conference yesterday, the four women said hundreds of people, including themselves, would launch a private prosecution against BAE for aiding and abetting murder in East Timor.

The four women belong to a group called Seeds of Hope — East Timor Ploughshares, whose aim is to follow the biblical injunction to "beat swords into ploughshares".

Ploughshares disarms weap-

ons by peaceful means and takes responsibility for its actions by owning up to them. There have been 58 "Ploughshare" acts internationally since 1980: this was the third of its kind in Britain.

The focus of the women's campaign is the £500 million arms contract Britain signed with the Indonesian Government in 1993 involving the sale of 24 Hawk jets.

Ms Wilson, 33, said their decision to break into the BAE hangar was a last resort. She said campaigners had written to the police and the Government, asking them to prosecute BAE under the Genocide Act. They had held protests and presented evidence that the Hawks were being used in East Timor and export guidelines were being breached.

British Aerospace said on Tuesday that it operated in accordance with export licences granted by the Government. The company said in a statement: "In addition, BAE has no evidence that Hawk aircraft are being used in a manner contrary to assurances provided by the Indonesian Government to the British Government."

New HIV strain poses threat in Britain

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A STRAIN of the virus linked to AIDS that may spread rapidly among heterosexuals has established itself in Britain.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has identified 10 men and 12 women it believes may be carrying a strain of the virus known as HIV-1 subtype E. This strain is responsible for a major epidemic among heterosexuals in Asia, where four million people are believed to have been infected with it over the past five years. The main source of the subtype is Thailand, where it has spread at enormous speed.

Last year a leading American AIDS specialist, Dr Mux Essex of the Harvard School of Public Health, gave a warning that the arrival of subtype E in the West could lead to a far more significant epidemic among heterosexuals than experienced so far. His experiments show that the subtype flourishes more readily in the cells that line the vagina, which may explain why it is easily spread by heterosexual intercourse.

Dr Barry Evans, an epidemiologist at the laboratory, says that experience in Belgium provides some reassurance. Studies have shown that all subtypes of HIV are present there, including E, but that a major heterosexual epidemic has not emerged.

"I wouldn't say this is completely reassuring," he said, "because of the test-tube experiments which suggest that subtype E may be more easily spread heterosexually. What we don't know is whether there are other factors that have affected the issue in Thailand."

CORRECTION

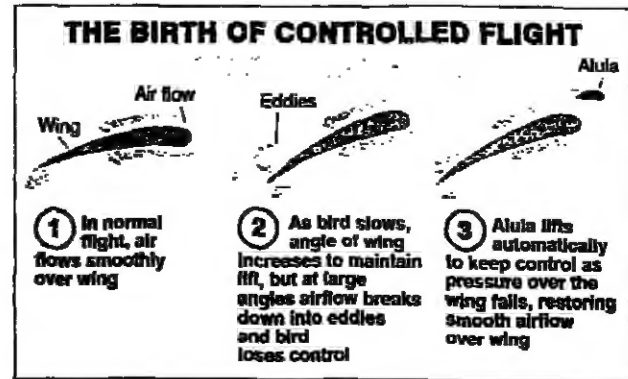
Mr Dennis McIntyre is director of the annual Bram Stoker summer school (report, July 3). Mr Leslie Shepard is chairman of the Bram Stoker Society in Ireland.

Missing link in flying history

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A FOSSIL of the first bird with variable-geometry wings, which lived 125 million years ago, has been discovered in central Spain, filling a gap in the evolution of flight. Like aircraft and its modern counterparts, the bird, which was about the size of a goldfinch, had a flap called an alula in the leading edge of its wings. At slow speeds, the alula opens to create a "slot" through which the air flows to prevent stalling.

This means that the bird, named *Eoalulavis hoyasi* by its Spanish and American discoverers, could control itself precisely and accurately at low speeds, coming in to land on the branch of a tree. The ancestor of all birds,



Archaeopteryx, lacked this ability and was probably forced to make running landings on the ground.

The perfectly preserved fossil of the newly discovered bird was found in the Las Hoyas deposits at La Cueva in Cuenca province, which lies to the east of Madrid. It is

described in today's issue of *Nature* by the team which discovered it, led by Dr José Sanz of the Autonomous University of Madrid. The fossil is so perfect that the feathers and the contents of the bird's stomach, including particles from the shells of crustaceans, can be seen.

Author arrested over SAS claims

Former Sports Minister stands to become fourth baron after 'very unhappy chapter'

Judge throws out boys' claims to Moynihan title

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE "disreputable" life of the late Lord Moynihan was laid bare at the High Court yesterday in a judgment that crushed the claims of two women that their sons were heirs to his title. It cleared the way for his half-brother, the former Sports Minister Colin Moynihan, to inherit the title.

Sir Stephen Brown ruled that Lord Moynihan's divorce from his fourth wife, Editha, in 1990 was null and void. Lord Moynihan had even faked the death of her son, Andrew, as part of a "clear, deliberate and sustained deception" to hurry through his divorce so that he could marry again. A DNA test showed that Andrew was not Lord Moynihan's son.

The ruling renders his subsequent marriage to Jinna Santiago invalid and means their son, Daniel, is illegitimate and unable to inherit. Jinna wept as Sir Stephen concluded that both Andrew and Daniel had been victims of "wicked selfishness".

The death of Anthony Patrick Andrew Cairnes Berkeley Moynihan in 1991 from a brain haemorrhage, aged 61, left a complex web of forged identities, bigamous marriages and fake documentation. Sir Stephen's 55-page judgment attempted to clear up the tangle of "lies and deceit" that surrounded the peer's marital affairs, but he admitted there were many questions raised by the case that he could not answer. "Speculation was rife and will continue."

What was clear was that Lord Moynihan's divorce from Editha, granted by Tunbridge Wells County Court in 1990, was obtained fraudulently. Lord Moynihan had deceived his own brother-in-law, the theatrical agent Charles Vance, who acted for him in the divorce, and duped an honest and conscientious solicitor, Christopher Russell.

The peer, who had taken up residence in the Philippines in 1970 after a fleeing a string of fraud charges in England, married 20-year-old Editha



Colin Moynihan with his wife Gaynor-Louise

Ruben in Manila in February 1981. Eight years later, in March 1990, he filed a petition for divorce in England via Mr Russell.

He described himself on the petition as a "retired gentleman", gave his main place of residence as England and the address of his wife, who had moved out, as his own address so that any correspondence to her from the court could be intercepted. When the court received the divorce papers from Editha, questions were answered using a typewriter and only her signature was handwritten. Experts had found that they were almost certainly forgeries.

When Lord Moynihan was told that he would have to attend a divorce hearing with his wife to explain their provisions for Andrew, he faked the boy's death to hurry proceedings along. A notice of Andrew's death appeared in *The Times* on June 6, 1990. It read: On 24th May, in the Philippines, Andrew, the infant son and heir of Anthony, 3rd Baron Moynihan of Leeds, aged 15 months. The decree nisi was granted and, in December 1990, he married Jinna, who gave birth to Daniel in January 1991.

The judge said that Editha was astonished to find she had apparently been divorced, and even more astonished to hear about the untimely death of her son.

"A considerable number of lies and half-truths had been told," Sir Stephen said. "I have not referred in detail to all the suspicious and questionable moves which were made in order to achieve and pursue this divorce hearing. However I find that there was a clear deliberate and sustained deception of the court by Lord Moynihan."

The estimated £500,000 costs of the case are to be found from Lord Moynihan's estate. The question of the title, along with a £3,500 annual income, is likely to go before the Privileges Committee of the House of Lords and be settled in the next few months.

Outside the court, Colin Moynihan said the judgment made it more likely that he would inherit the title and he hoped that the issue would

have been treated very badly up until now. I have been called many names — a gold-digger — but I shall be getting what I worked for, I was the one who made it in the first place, not him."

Before he married Editha, Lord Moynihan had been married three times, to an actress, a belly dancer and a brothel owner. When he fled England for the Philippines in 1969, he faced 57 charges of fraudulent trading and false pretences.

His business affairs were as complex as his marital ones. The 1970s and 1980s took him from the narcotics trade to prostitution and fraud. At one stage he ran a brothel within 100 yards of the British Ambassador's residence.

He always considered himself the quintessential English peer. Mr Russell told the court that he saw himself as "the typical English gentleman". His epitaph is more likely to lie in the words of Sir Stephen, who described him as a "thoroughly dishonest rogue".



Jinna Santiago and her son Daniel. Her marriage to Lord Moynihan was invalid

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IF YOU WISH TO REPAY BACK ALL OR PART OF YOUR MORTGAGE BEING 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Author arrested over SAS claims

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BESTSELLING author who says that he was part of an SAS death squad in Northern Ireland in the 1970s was arrested by the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday and held for questioning about claims made in his book.

The author, who used the pseudonym Paul Bruce when he wrote *The Nemesis File*, published last autumn, said that the squad killed more than 30 men between 1971 and 1972. He said that the bodies had been buried in deep woodland graves and that the first victims were unarmed IRA suspects.

Yesterday he was arrested at dawn at his flat in the West Country by RUC officers. John Blake, publisher of *The Nemesis File*, said that he was detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and flown from Heathrow to Belfast.

The publisher also said that the officers seized the manuscript of the paperback edition

of the book, which is coming out in September. It has a new chapter which includes an interview with a former army intelligence officer, Captain Fred Holroyd. Mr Holroyd has made many allegations in the past about covert activities by the British authorities in Ulster.

Yesterday a spokesman for the RUC confirmed the arrest. He would not confirm the real name of the author.

The RUC denied a claim by Mr Blake that the author had previously volunteered to help the force, which has been investigating the allegations in the book since it was published last year.

Mr Blake denounced the arrest as melodramatic. "He was always available for the RUC but they never took up the offer, yet now they enter his flat when he's asleep and arrest him."

He said that the book had sold nearly 100,000 copies and was in the top ten bestsellers for more than three months. When it was published, the allegations about the killings were dismissed by the Ministry of Defence and were treated sceptically by the RUC.

Republican sources in Northern Ireland cast doubt on the claims, suggesting that the disappearance of 30 men, many of them alleged IRA suspects, would not have gone unnoticed.

However, Mr Blake and his author continued to vouch for the book's authenticity and expect the paperback version to renew the controversy.

Books, pages 34, 35



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Villiers daughter wins court battle with Rolls-Royce

By Robin Young

THE blind daughter of a renowned car engineer won damages of £160,000 against Rolls-Royce yesterday in a legal action begun by her late father.

Janie Villiers successfully concluded an action for breach of contract started by Amherst Villiers in 1991. Mr Villiers fell down stairs at his home after the third day of the original trial and died of cancer before his cross-examination could be completed.

The dispute concerned Rolls-Royce's failure to realise his dream of transforming a 1937 Phantom III into "the most fabulous Rolls-Royce", a turbo-charged "super-Rolls" dedicated to the memory of his friend, Sir Henry Royce.

Although the company agreed to do the work on the car, it was never completed. Yesterday in the High Court Judge Prosser, QC, said that

Rolls-Royce could have settled Mr Villiers's subsequent legal action at any time, but had chosen instead to "brazen it out and fight tooth and nail".

Counsel for Miss Villiers told the court that it was a David versus Goliath case "in which the company behaved with utter arrogance against a sick old man who was dying".

Mr Villiers, who developed Sir Malcolm Campbell's land-speed record-winning *Bluebird*, powered racing cars for Graham Hill and contributed to American space research, attracted Royce's attention when he supercharged a Phantom I in 1926. He subsequently established an international reputation as "Mr Supercharger", but was in his eighties when he conceived the idea of supercharging the Phantom III.

Delivering judgment yesterday after a 15-day hearing,

Judge Prosser said that Richard Perry, former chairman and chief executive of Rolls-Royce, had agreed that Rolls-Royce would complete the work to *concoct* condition and deliver the car "in perfect working order, free of charge" in return for the right to use it for publicity. But when Mr Villiers sought to have the work completed he was told that he would have to pay for it himself.

The judge, who disclosed during the hearing that he was a Bentley owner, said his inspection of the car had convinced him that much of the work Rolls-Royce had carried out was "well below standard". Mr Villiers had taken him for a drive in it.

Rivets could be seen through the paintwork and chromium, the panamirons had been put on the wrong way round and the trim was sub-standard throughout. He found that the steering box made a "horrible noise" when turning from left to right and the turbochargers that were the principle object of the exercise had never been fitted.

The judge cited letters and memorandums in which Rolls-Royce executives wrote of trying to make the car "reasonably roadworthy" or "a runner". He said that he found such comments difficult to believe.

He said that the project to turbocharge the Phantom III was doomed once Michael Dunn was appointed head of engineering at Rolls-Royce. Mr Dunn had regarded Mr



Judge Prosser, a Bentley owner, after inspecting the disputed Rolls-Royce outside the High Court during the early stages of the case

Villiers as "a devious and difficult old man who would go to any lengths to get his own way" and did not believe the project could be of any value to Rolls-Royce.

The judge, however, said he had liked Mr Villiers and found him charming. Fixing the amount of damages, he said he could not assume that the car would have been sold at the top of the market for £500,000, but he accepted that before and after the market

peak it might have fetched £200,000. From that he deducted £40,000, which might be the present value.

He said that he would not award additional damages because Mr Villiers had been deprived of enjoyment of the car. Mr Villiers, however, was "a legend in his own lifetime" who took joy in his efforts to "move the frontiers of mechanical power ever forward".

Judge Prosser awarded the bulk of costs, estimated at

£500,000, against the company, and those incurred since the start of the trial on an indemnity basis, which signals disapproval of the defence. He said: "The company conducted its defence in an unwhimsical way. I do not wish to use emotive words, but the case could have been settled at any time. Instead they brazened it out and fought tooth and nail."

Peter Irvin, for Miss Villiers, asked for interest on the

damages from the beginning of 1988, when Mr Villiers might have been expected to sell the car. He said: "This was a David versus Goliath case in which the company behaved with utter arrogance against a sick old man who was dying and actually died, and a daughter who is herself unwell."

The judge allowed interest for 3½ years, saying that some of the delays in the case were the plaintiff's fault. Michael

Silverleaf, QC, for Rolls-Royce, said the company might appeal.

Miss Villiers said: "I will consider appealing too. The car should have been worth £500,000. Rolls-Royce betrayed my father. The shoddy way in which they dishonoured their contract proved what he said about them. He told me: 'The pin-striped cowboys have got under the wire at Crewe', and he was right."



Amherst Villiers and his daughter, Janie

Testosterone patches offered on NHS

By Dominic Kennedy

A TESTOSTERONE patch to restore libido and sexual performance becomes available on the National Health Service today despite fears that middle-aged men will demand it as a rejuvenation therapy.

The two-inch patch is designed to treat hypogonadism, which reduces production of sex hormones and affects 15,000 men in the United Kingdom, causing impotence, loss of sex drive, fatigue, muscle weakness and depression. Rich-

ard Foulds, medical director of SmithKline Beecham, which created the Andropatch, said that it should be used only for the correct medical purpose. Excessive testosterone has been linked to cancer and heart disease.

Two patches, attached to the skin nightly, mimic the natural pattern of testosterone release in the bloodstream. The treatment costs £1.60 a day.

Patches have already been used to treat cigarette addiction and travel sickness. Experts emphasise that the new patches

are not an aphrodisiac and cannot cure men whose hormone levels are normal but who may suffer impotence from other causes. "Sexual problems, stress, tiredness or marital disharmony are more commonly the main culprits," said Ian Banks, a general practitioner. Other men, aged 45 to 55, ask their GPs for testosterone to treat the "mid-life crisis" or andropause.

Hypogonadism can have serious effects, including brittle bones, mild anaemia and reduced sperm count.

Psychopath stabbed landlady to death

A PSYCHOPATH who killed his landlady, the estranged wife of an eminent cancer scientist, was ordered to be detained indefinitely at a top security hospital yesterday.

Seven weeks after moving into Janice Symons's home in Leicester, Richard Burton, 32, stabbed her to death. When detectives asked why he had killed her, he said: "I don't know why, I just did."

Mr Justice Turner told Leicester Crown Court that Burton was a danger to the public and was likely to kill again if he was at large. He ordered his detention at Rampton hospital.

Mrs Symons, 59, had been forced to take in lodgers to make ends meet when her husband Martin, 69, a professor at Leicester University and a transvestite, left her after an affair with a post-graduate student.

The court was told that on May 11, 1995, Burton got up, fetched a knife from the kitchen and then sat on the stairs asking himself whether he should stab Mrs Symons: "Do I or don't I?"

He followed her around the house for a while before attacking her. He struck her on the head with a pestle and ignored her when she begged him not to kill her. As she struggled to escape, he stabbed her three times.

Burton, who worked at Leicester University, admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility after specialists agreed he had a severe psychopathic personality disorder.

After the sentence, Leicester Health Authority announced an independent inquiry into the case. The authority disclosed that Burton had been a "user of mental health services" in Leicester but declined to give details about the nature or length of his treatment.

P is for passé as August car sales run out of road

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

THOUSANDS of motorists who drive out of showrooms today in cars sporting the new P plate could be the last buyers in the annual August registration bonanza.

More than 490,000 cars — nearly a quarter of all new vehicle sales this year — are expected to be bought this month, but the Government is ready to end the system at the insistence of the motor industry. The Department of Transport will issue a consultative document on its proposed changes within the next few weeks.

The industry wants a new system of quarterly registration letter changes, which could be in place by the end of this year, and would mean a new registration plate issued from January 1, followed by another in May, then July and September. However, a range of alternatives exist, including new plates which give more details of towns or counties, or even a form of personal plate, so each driver would be issued with a registration number with their licence and would carry it on to each car they owned.

Whatever the decision, the August boom is doomed. Dealers have had to carry

three times more stock than usual over the past few weeks, hiring yards and fields to park new cars. While the one-month sale will be worth around £5.4 billion over four weeks, the extra effort of storage, coping with documentation and preparing vehicles is thought to cost more than £1 billion.

Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "This is the age of highly efficient manufacturing and highly efficient distribution, yet we are the only country where all these sales are compressed into just four weeks."

The year-letter registration was introduced to mark cars which were ready for MOT tests, and the letter was to change each January. Dealers complained that the system created a blip at a time when they could already sell cars and convinced the Government to move it to August, traditionally the quietest sales month.

In 1967, when the change was introduced, August accounted for fewer than 10 per cent of sales; now the month takes a quarter of the annual total.



Dealers say the annual change involves extra costs

Homes on toxic site will have new garden

THOUSANDS of tons of soil are to be cleared from private gardens to protect children from lead pollution, after high toxic levels were found under 150 homes built on a disused rubbish tip.

The £1.3 million clean-up ordered by Oxford City Council follows a three-month investigation at Bertie Place and Abingdon Road, where workmen testing for subsidence found high levels of lead, arsenic and mercury.

Residents complained of nervous disorders, headaches, numbness and loss of appetite after being told that their 1930s homes were built on a tip. They were told to stop eating home-grown vegetables. Public health officials and experts from the National Environmental Technology Centre carried out tests on families.

It was concluded that the lead could affect the developing nervous system of young children if the soil was swallowed from dirty hands, but the mercury and arsenic were not believed to be a health risk to adults or children.

In a six-month operation, soil will now be removed from front and rear gardens and replaced with clean earth. Where all the soil cannot be removed because it is too close to foundations, it will be covered by patios and hardstanding.

A children's play area and recreation ground will be specially treated and doctors will continue to monitor residents' health. Richard Peacock, the housing director, said: "The results were not as bad as we first thought. We are seeking funding from the Government for the work."

Dr Dick Mayon White, a public health consultant, said: "No one has been found with any poisoning that requires treatment."

Brent seeks to cast off its barmy name

By Ian Murray
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A COUNCIL that became synonymous with the "loony left" and corruption is considering changing its name to escape its image.

The London Borough of Brent is to poll residents and local businesses to find out if they want it to become known as the London Borough of Wembley and Willesden. Brent was created in 1965 by merging the two old authorities' areas. Council members have voted narrowly to pay for the poll as part of a consultation process "to do everything possible to shed its barmy image".

The motion was put forward by Paul Lorber, leader of the Liberal Democrat group, and won support from Labour and one of the Conservative members on the hung council. "During the Eighties

under Labour we became known as 'barmy Brent' and under the Tories we became known as Bent Council," Mr Lorber said yesterday. "That kind of thing is unhelpful in our efforts to attract investment to the borough at a time when authorities are having to compete against each other."

"The tags are unjustified but people remember them. If we change the name to link the borough with Wembley stadium, which has a worldwide reputation for excellence, it will change our image. If Wembley wins the competition to become the site for the new national stadium, it will be a golden opportunity that we should not miss."

The Conservative group, which controlled the borough for four years until last April, says the name change is nothing but a political gimmick. The group is to seek a judicial review of the

decision to investigate the idea. "The consultation process will cost £100,000 which we cannot afford," said Reg Colwill, the group's leader.

"If it went ahead it would cost at least £1 million in changing road signs, letter heads and that sort of thing. Council tax would have to go up by £11 a head just to pay for it."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, the Tory MP for Brent North — the Wembley area — said he liked the idea of reverting to the old names, but only if it meant splitting the borough into two authorities. "If this is a stepping stone to getting smaller authorities I am all for it," he said. "If it's just a publicity gimmick, it's a waste of money."

Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, agreed that the authority should be split along the pre-1965 lines. "But if local people want a new name, that has to be up to them," he said.

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Bottomley fends off demands for regulator's resignation after Commons criticism

Lottery watchdog 'made errors of judgment'

By Philip Webster and Jon Ashworth

THE National Lottery Secretary was standing by the National Lottery regulator last night after a Commons committee accused him of "serious errors of judgment".

Virginia Bottomley tried to head off fresh demands for the resignation of Peter Davis after the Public Accounts Committee criticised him for taking free flights in the United States two years ago on the corporate aircraft of GTEch, which has a big stake in the lottery operator Camelot. Mrs Bottomley, who allowed Mr Davis to remain after the allegations surfaced in December, repeated that, although he had been unwise to take the flights and accept hospitality from a New York businessman linked to GTEch, he retained her confidence as an effective regulator.

Last night one of the committee's members, Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, said that Mr Davis should go, to restore public confidence in the position. "I am not accusing him of dishonesty or impropriety, but of a serious lack of judgment. He admitted to us that he had been told to be careful about taking any hospitality from the companies involved here, and yet he chose to ignore that advice."

Mr Williams said that, in a closed session of the committee, Mr Davis had admitted that he was well aware of the question marks over GTEch's reputation. Mr Williams said: "I told him that if he had said that in open session, the press would have buried him."

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Lottery Secretary, supported the committee's conclusions. Labour has pledged "far-reaching" changes to the duties of the lottery regulator if it wins power.

Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat heritage spokesman, called for a fresh appraisal of Camelot's profits in the light of the committee's findings that sales to the end of September 1995 were 70 per cent higher than forecast in its initial application.

The committee criticised Mr Davis's decision to accept hospitality from Carl Menges, a Wall Street financier and GTEch director, during a private visit to his home in October 1994. The MPs recognised that the friendship between the two men's wives had pre-dated the creation of the lottery. But they said: "We regard it as of vital importance that the director-general should be seen by the public to be completely impartial and at arm's length from the lottery



Branson: said profits would go to charity

operator, its shareholders and those with financial interests in them."

The MPs were "unimpressed" by Mr Davis's argument that he had accepted the free flights only after he had announced his decision to award the licence to Camelot. "In our view, the director-general's decisions to use GTEch corporate aircraft represented serious errors of judgment," the report said.

MPs criticised the way Mr Davis handled a complaint by Rainbow UK, which had originally pitched for the scratch-card licence. They were "concerned" that Mr Davis had not investigated the Rain-

bow allegations more thoroughly. Richard Wheatly, the former advertising executive who led the Rainbow bid, said Mr Davis had not been prepared to consider his rival scratch-card proposals.

The committee did not directly criticise Mr Davis's decision to award the lottery franchise to Camelot. The report noted that he selected Camelot because it was estimated that the company would contribute the most to the good causes. Mr Davis pointed out that, under the terms of the Act setting up the lottery, he had been unable to take into account the offer made by Mr Branson that his company UK Lotteries would donate all its profits to charity.

Mr Branson said yesterday that Mr Davis could and should have taken his offer into account. He said: "Market research showed more people would have played the lottery as a result and, therefore, not only would the charities have benefited more, but so would the Government's good causes fund."

Mr Davis, who is on holiday, could not be reached for comment. Camelot said the report highlighted its success in contributing more to good causes than any other candidate for the lottery licence.

Leading article, page 17



Peter Davis accepted free flights from GTEch, which has a stake in Camelot

Millions in legal aid paid after lax checks

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of pounds of taxpayers' money is being paid out in legal aid for criminal cases without proper checks, the National Audit Office said yesterday.

In its latest critical report on the granting of legal aid, the Office — the watchdog of Whitehall spending — found that in 40 per cent of cases where free legal aid was granted, court staff did not obtain proper evidence that the defendant was entitled to receive it.

Criminal legal aid, which is granted by magistrates' courts, cost £469 million in 1994-95. To qualify, a person must pass a means test and satisfy the court that it is in the interests of justice that they should have legal representation. Some 70 per cent of applicants are entitled to free legal aid (without the need to pay a contribution) because they receive income support, family credit or disability working allowance.

The Office found that although courts obtained some evidence that the applicant was receiving another benefit in 91 per cent of cases, it was adequate to confirm entitlement in only 54 per cent.

In some cases, free legal aid was awarded even though the local social security office had stated that a defendant was not entitled to receive it.

MPs attack Birt's secretive reform of World Service

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

BBC chiefs were accused by MPs yesterday of adopting a "cavalier attitude" to restructuring changes which staff fear will threaten the future of the World Service.

In a report strongly critical of John Birt, the BBC Director-General, the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee concluded: "The manner in which these proposals appear to have been conceived, in some secrecy, and the apparent lack of consultation, is, in our opinion, regrettable, as it may have exacerbated staff opposition to the changes."

The report, brought out only two weeks after Mr Birt's troubled appearance before the committee when one MP accused him of acting like a tsar, sharply criticised him for failing to consult both the Foreign Office and the World Service itself about the changes. It called for a period of "detailed and open-minded consultation" between the Foreign Office, MPs, staff and management in order to analyse the impact of the changes.

It also proposed a new investigation by the National Audit Office into the expenditure of the World Service and its costs and benefits to the United Kingdom.

"We consider it a fundamental obligation of both the British Government and the BBC to ensure the World Service's international prima-

ry is maintained," the report said.

In June, the BBC announced wide-ranging restructuring to sever production from commissioning and scheduling in radio and television. The plan — agreed by Mr Birt, BBC chairman Sir Christopher Bland and the Board of Governors — means the World Service will commission its English language programmes, about 20 per cent of its output, from BBC Production or independent producers, and its news from BBC News. Some staff campaigned against the changes.

The committee said that it will seek regular progress reports from Mr Birt. "We are concerned to ensure that the unique quality of the BBC World Service is not lost in a vast new superstructure within which its needs and priorities are overlooked, or even disregarded."

The BBC welcomed the committee's endorsement of the World Service as a national asset and said Mr Birt and the Governors had repeatedly made clear their "absolute commitment" to it. The service retained its editorial and commissioning roles, and news programmes in English and other languages would be made by a "dedicated and integrated team" which would stay at Bush House until at least April 1998.

Labour is preparing to avoid conflict of 1970s

By Philip Webster

REFORMS to the Labour Party structure to prevent a Blair government being undermined by internal conflict with activists were put to the leadership yesterday.

When Labour was last in Government its ruling body, the National Executive Committee, was frequently a source of tension. In the late 1970s the Bennite Left took control of the NEC and forced through changes such as the reselection of MPs.

Now Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, has tabled plans to enable the NEC to develop a role that is "neither a pressure group on the government nor an alternative centre of power".

His Party in Power report says that he wants to encourage a new culture that "encourages democratic working through openness, and which turns the local party outward into its community" at constituency level. It questions whether the Labour leader and members of the Shadow



Sawyer: new culture

Cabinet should sit on the NEC. The paper also canvasses the idea of widening the representation on the NEC to include regional and local government. Although it does not say so much, the implication is that the number of trade union members would fall.

The party is almost certain to adopt new ideas from Mr Sawyer to reduce confrontation at the annual conference. One plan is that the traditional session of composing motions on the eve of the conference should be brought forward to achieve a "non-adversarial policy dialogue".

Marjorie Mowlam, an NEC member, said: "Previous Labour Governments have argued with the NEC and it's been unproductive... We've been out for a long time. We've got to be ready to take power."

Labour benefactor, page 15

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JP 11/150

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MFI home works

France braced for autumn of strikes over budget cuts

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH union leaders and government ministers will head off on holiday this month in the knowledge that the stage is set for a renewed bout of labour unrest when they return in September.

Government pledges to cut budgets and prune back the public sector, union strike threats and ever-swelling unemployment have mixed in a volatile cocktail that will ferment through the summer. Many commentators predict that at the *la rentrée*, when France grudgingly goes back to work, the strikes and stoppages of last autumn will also return with a vengeance.

Clear signs of a looming confrontation over government austerity plans came this week with reports that up to 10,000 jobs will be cut from the public sector next year, as part of the 60 billion francs (£7.8 billion) in economies the Government hopes to make in advance of European monetary union. At least 2,500 teaching jobs are likely to be slashed, the first employment cuts in education for 15 years.

Monique Vuallat, head of the powerful secondary teachers' union, said she was already seeking support from other public sector unions for strike action in the autumn.

Other education unions called the cuts "scandalous".

Teachers' union leaders have scheduled a meeting on August 27 and the seven civil service federations will also meet on September 10 to co-ordinate action. The Force Ouvrière union, which spearheaded the strikes last year, has scheduled a march for September 21 to defend jobs, salaries and welfare benefits.

But the cuts so far identified are only the tip of the iceberg of what the Government must ram into the Titanic public sector, which employs more than two million people, to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single European currency. Eliminating 10,000 public sector jobs will save just 1.5 billion francs, a fourth of the total government objective.

It is no accident that the first intimations of the shape of cuts to come should have emerged in the holiday season. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is plainly hoping that by circulating his plans during the summer lull he can take at least some of the sting out of union wrath.

But the unions are in unforgiving mood, especially after job figures released yesterday showed that unemployment had reached a near-record 12.5

per cent. "They talk about fighting unemployment and then cut jobs," said Bernard Lhubert, head of the civil service branch of the Communist-led CGT union.

The scope and timing of further unrest may depend largely on the rail unions, which were among the most militant opponents of M Juppé's efforts to overhaul the welfare system last year.

The Government is preparing for the "battle royal" in prospect by quietly garnering support in some unlikely places. President Chirac dined this week with Alain Madelin, the Thatcherite former Finance Minister, who suggested a year ago that the civil service needed pruning, and was immediately sacked.

Today, M Chirac goes a step further by having lunch with Edouard Balladur, his rival for the presidency who has repeatedly sniped at the Government's budget policies. The two men dislike one another, but with further unrest on the horizon, M Chirac needs all the allies he can muster.

The President is spending his break at a Provencal fortress: an accurate reflection of his mentality, the unions say, and perhaps the best place to prepare for conflict.

Skinheads held for attack on cemetery

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FIVE skinheads have been arrested in connection with the desecration of the Jewish cemetery at Carpentras more than six years ago, a crime that outraged France and prompted a political furor.

In May 1990, 34 graves were vandalised and the body of an elderly man who had died five days before was impaled on an umbrella.

A wave of revision swept France and the finger of suspicion was immediately pointed at the extreme-right National Front, then gaining political ground. The President at the time, François Mitterrand, later joined 200,000 people on a march through Paris against racism and anti-Semitism.

The five people held yesterday have not been identified but are believed to be linked to the Parti Nationaliste Français et Européen, an extremist neo-Nazi breakaway from the National Front, founded by a former Waffen SS member.

Two of those arrested have confessed to the crime, radio reports said. All were in custody in Avignon last night.

Boon: German neo-Nazis have applied to hold more than 100 marches to commemorate Hitler's former deputy, Rudolf Hess, who committed suicide in Spandau prison on August 17, 1987.



Zapatista rebels welcome Danielle Mitterrand, widow of the former French President, to the village of La Realidad in Mexico, where she is taking part this week in a conference on global domination by multinational companies

Children of Russian officials 'stole £64m'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHILDREN of leading Russian bureaucrats are being accused of stealing about \$100 million (£64.5 million) from the Interior and Defence Ministries through falsifying letters of credit between 1993 and 1994.

According to the Russian police, embezzlement charges are being prepared against ten people, mostly the sons and daughters of senior officials.

Andrei Stepanov, the head of Moscow's investigation division, said the cases were by no means exceptional. He added that his officers were also investigating the Health Ministry, where millions of pounds in medical aid for Chechnia had disappeared. "The case involves officials very close to the Health Minister, which creates certain difficulties for investigators," he said yesterday, lamenting that senior officials in Russia still regard themselves as above the law.

Although the latest disclosures of corruption are stunning, even by Russia's standards, it is not clear how far the crackdown will lead. After the presidential elections and the rise of General Aleksandr Lebed as the Kremlin's security chief, it had been hoped that his tough "law and order" platform would be translated into a big clean-up drive.

However, there are serious doubts whether a concerted operation is possible while President Yeltsin is still in power. Several senior figures close to the Russian leader have been suspected of making millions through bribes, embezzlement or abuse of influence. Only one has been arrested.

Bosnian Croats' church bombed

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN BUGOJNO

SISTER Kornelia Grubisan, a Catholic nun in the predominantly Muslim town of Bugojno, had settled into bed to read a novel in her quarters at the Franciscan Church of St Anton when a powerful bomb exploded outside her window last Friday night.

The blast, believed to be the work of Muslim extremists, shattered all nine of the hand-made stained-glass windows of the 120-year-old Catholic church, the biggest in Bosnia. It destroyed a hearse, an ambulance and a pharmacy run by an international aid group. It cracked the walls of the children's Sunday school room and blew off the doors in the residence hall, where 13 nuns and priests sleep. Nobody was killed, however.

The bombing was probably in retaliation for the partial burning of a mosque in nearby Prozor, a predominantly Croat town, a day earlier. It is a reflection of the deteriorating relations between Muslims and Croats, partners in a shaky federation.

In Bugojno today less than 2,000 of the prewar Croat population of 15,000 remain. According to Father Janko Ljubos, 47, the priest who runs the Franciscan parish, they are routinely harassed by the Muslim authorities who control the town. "This attack was an attempt to force out the remaining Croats," he said.

The church had become a community centre for the Croats, housing offices of Caritas, a Catholic relief organisation, a human rights group, a mail centre for Croat residents, and offices of the Croatian Democratic Union.

"There are some parts of Bosnia where the ethnic cleansing is not finished and now, extremist groups on all sides are trying to finish it off," said Father Ljubos.



Balabagan: outrage over her death sentence

Filipina maid flies home to a fortune

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SARAH BALABAGAN, the teenage Filipina maid who has faced a death sentence, flogging and two years in jail for murdering her employer in the United Arab Emirates after he allegedly tried to rape her, was freed and flew home to Manila yesterday, facing a future brimming with all the hope that money can buy.

Miss Balabagan has a reported £100,000 to spend from a trust fund set up with donations from well-wishers and many times that amount believed to be on offer from Manila businessmen.

In 1994 she was convicted of murdering her elderly employer, Almas Mohammed al-Baloushi. Last summer she was sentenced to die, causing international outrage and prompting Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to intervene. After a retrial she was sentenced to a year in prison and 100 lashes.

The UAE said Miss Balabagan was released because of good behaviour in jail. While there, she was inundated with gifts as well as offers of marriage. One of her suitors is reportedly an Englishman.

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£2,500 to £9,999	4.50	4.57	3.60	3.64
£10,000 to £49,999	5.25	5.35	4.20	4.28
£50,000 to £99,999	5.50	5.61	4.40	4.47
£100,000 and over	5.75	5.87	4.60	4.67

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings.
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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 1 1996

Township mob on rampage after 15 die in stampede

ANGRY youths fought running battles with police in Tembisa township, 20 miles northeast of Johannesburg, yesterday as they vented their anger over a rush-hour railway station stampede that left 15 people dead and more than 50 injured.

President Mandela pledged an urgent inquiry into the "national tragedy" at Tembisa station, caused when security guards with electric shock batons tried to turn back alleged fare dodgers. The victims were crushed as thousands of commuters trying to board trains into Johannesburg and Pretoria were caught in a bottleneck.

In rare scenes of township violence since the end of apartheid, hundreds of youths



An electric-baton attack by security guards on railway fare dodgers led to a riot and a narrow escape from a violent crowd for Inigo Gilmore

rampaged through the dusty streets round the station vowing to kill the security guards. Screaming abuse and hurling stones, they set upon journalists at the scene.

Arriving at the station, I saw youths wielding clubs and metal bars smash down the wooden door of the ticket office before torching it. This triggered a gas-bottle explosion that ripped off part of the roof.

Police in bullet-proof vests, firing rubber bullets and tear-

gas, chased the mob from the station across waste ground where I was standing. As they took up positions around the station, a white policeman beckoned aggressively to his tormentors as they hurled rocks at him.

Screaming men and women then turned their anger on me, as I crouched behind a car. Stones narrowly missed my head and body. As I scrambled into the passenger seat of the car, a colleague from *The Daily Telegraph* put the vehicle into reverse, but the front wheels became stuck in a rut.

A rock crashed through the driver's window, and for a few terrifying moments, with the wheels spinning, I watched the mob come closer. With a jerk of the steering wheel the car was suddenly free and we sped away.

Witnesses at the scene said the stampede occurred shortly after 6am. They said people had arrived earlier to find the ticket office shut and, worried about missing their trains, attempted to board without tickets. Passengers forced their way through the control point, crushing others in front.

More than 50 people were reportedly admitted to a hospital in the township with injuries caused by electric shocks. A police spokesman said such



Residents protesting in Tembisa yesterday after 15 rail commuters died in a stampede triggered by the use of electric batons on fare dodgers

shocks could be lethal. One witness said he saw security guards pinning down passengers and pressing prods into bare skin, including faces.

Bintu Petsana, a spokeswoman for Metro Rail which runs the commuter train service, said the company had begun deploying private security guards on Monday to curb fare dodgers. "Resistance had been building up among non-paying commuters who refused to move to ticket offices," she said. "These com-

muters embarked on a practice of waiting on top of a bridge until a train arrived and then storming down the stairs past the access points."

She added: "This happened again this morning, with a group of singing and dancing commuters shouting and pushing their way past the security personnel."

In the pandemonium police struggled to restrain a surging crowd of several thousands who demanded to see the victims. As word spread of the

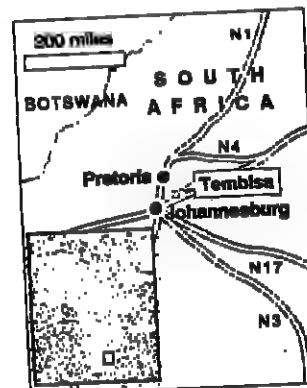
tragedy, youths, many schoolchildren, flocked to the scene demanding answers and punishment for the security guards. The guards, who had earlier hidden in the ticket office, were ferried by police to a local police station.

Encircled by plumes of billowing black smoke, youths demonstrated at the entrance to the station. Speaking from inside a riot van, a local ANC official tried to calm the crowd, but his pleas for restraint were drowned by

shouts of anger. "If the security guards come back here the people will murder them," a 24-year-old calling himself "KB" said to nodes of approval.

"The people want justice." For most Tembisa residents, trains are the only mode of transport to Johannesburg. A ticket to the city costs 3.5 rands (about 50p) while a trip to the local suburbs is 1.5 rands.

A relief fund was set up to assist victims and their families and had received 500,000 rands by last night.



Armed police guarding the station from protesters

African states isolate Burundi regime

FROM SAM KILEY
IN BUJUMBURA

AFRICAN leaders vowed yesterday to impose tough economic sanctions against Burundi's new military regime, and demanded that it open negotiations with Hutu rebels or face "tougher measures".

Major Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in a coup last week, was left out of the talks in Arusha, northern Tanzania. "This is a total economic blockade of Burundi. There was not a single dissenting voice," President Mkapa of Tanzania said after

the six-nation regional summit. Other leaders came from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia and Zaire.

The tough stance has not been matched since 1967, when the Organisation of African Unity imposed sanctions on Rhodesia, and signals a new phase in regional politics, since African leaders traditionally have ignored the affairs of their neighbours. The six leaders said the curbs would not be lifted until Major Buyoya restored "constitutional legality", a demand amounting to an order to restore Sylvestre Ntibunganya, the

deposed Hutu President, to power. Landlocked Burundi, its economy hard hit by civil war, relies on brewing, and coffee and tea exports by road. About 150,000 people have died in three years of killings between Hutus, who are 85 per cent of the population, and Tutsis, who control the military.

Major Buyoya, in an attempt to woo support, yesterday appointed a Hutu as his Prime Minister. But it had no effect. Pascal-Firmin Ndirimira, 40, has a Rwandan Tutsi mother and is a member of the Tutsi-dominated Uprona Party.



Kelly: hanged at 25

Aborigines seek Ned Kelly reward

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

DESCENDANTS of two Aborigines who tracked down the infamous Australian bush ranger, Ned Kelly, launched a court action yesterday for the reward that they claim was never paid.

In 1880, when the bandit who became a folk hero was captured by police after a shootout in Glenrowan, Victoria, a £50 reward had been

posted for information leading to his arrest. The Aboriginal pair drew on their traditional hunting skills to lead police to Kelly's hideout.

Now, 116 years later, their descendants claim the reward, equivalent to two weeks' salary for a clerk at the time, is worth £20,000 with compound interest.

John Lee Jones, an Aboriginal elder, acting on behalf of families of the men, filed suits against the Victoria and

Queensland state governments yesterday. Mrs May McBride, 79, a granddaughter of one of the Aborigines, claimed her grandfather repeatedly tried to obtain the reward before he died in poverty in 1925.

Legal sources said the lawsuits had little chance of success because of the time lapse since Kelly's capture.

Kelly was hanged in Melbourne jail a few months after his capture, aged 25.

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Ignored Buchanan hints at quitting Republican ranks

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PAT BUCHANAN, the biggest thorn in Bob Dole's side, all but threatened to quit the Republican Party yesterday if his conservative agenda continued to be ignored.

Warning that the party was in "dire straits", Mr Buchanan was still steaming over being offered only a 15-second video appearance at the Republican convention. He told a Washington press conference that his not being invited to speak was an insult.

Almost as bad, Mr Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, was refusing to talk to him, the Dole campaign would not return his calls to discuss platform proposals, and he felt as though he was being boxed out.

Mr Dole has decided that to have any hope of beating President Clinton in Novem-

ber he must run towards the moderate centre. In doing so, he is trying to ignore the party's divisions and gambling that Mr Buchanan will not leave the fold and take his legion of supporters with him, because they have nowhere else to go.

As a maverick and a populist, Mr Buchanan came second in the primaries with three million votes. His delegates promise to be a noisy presence at the convention, which starts in 11 days' time in San Diego, with the potential to cause floor-fights over abortion, taxes and international trade.

Alone among the other defeated primary contestants, Mr Buchanan refuses to endorse Mr Dole. When asked what it would take for him to do so, he said his attitude

would depend on the tone of the convention, the shape of the party's platform and the selection of an anti-abortion candidate for Vice-President.

He intends to go to the convention as a Republican and he hoped to leave as one, he said, emphasising the word "hoped". "But I cannot give these folks a blank cheque," he added. "I am more committed to a lot of these ideas and issues than to any party label."

Asked point-blank if he would leave the party, he said: "What we do is contingent on the next few weeks."

Mr Buchanan will hold a series of rallies beyond the convention hall to "provide a voice for the unborn and for the working men and women who have been left out of this hollow prosperity". He speaks not for the Republican blue-bloods, but for the blue-collar conservatives and the Religious Right, whose ranks he says are growing.

Buchanan delegates will be armed with his latest manifesto, which goes beyond Mr Dole's proposals in calling for a flat tax with some deductions and for an "America First" curbing of free trade that runs counter to mainstream Republican beliefs.

In typically heated Buchanan rhetoric, it says: "Amoral trans-national corporations that dominate foreign trade have adopted a 'profit over all' mind-set."

"Like the denizens of Jurassic Park, they exhibit only appetite. They have no allegiance to any country and no loyalty even to their own workers."

On foreign policy, Mr Buchanan accused Europeans of cutting back their military forces and throwing the entire burden of their defence on the Americans. America's response, he said, must be to pull all US ground troops out of Europe and transfer command of Nato to a European general.

Belorussia opposition heads seek US asylum

BY TOM RHODES, AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE United States last night was considering asylum for two opposition leaders from Belorussia who claim they fled the hardline regime in the former Soviet republic in fear of their lives.

Zenon Poznyak, chairman of the Popular Front party, and Sergei Naumchik, its press secretary, said they had been labelled enemies of the state by President Lukashenko, who had ordered them "neutralised" or killed.

The two, speaking on Capitol Hill, called on Congress to hold hearings on recent human rights abuses in Belorussia. Martin Hoke, a Ohio Republican, said both had been imprisoned and claimed to have suffered various abuses.

"I have advanced their case and to my understanding there is every indication that they will be granted political asylum here," he said. "I have also urged Congress to cut foreign aid to Belorussia and prevent what appears to be the creation of a police state."

The State Department and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service both declined comment. Under federal law, asylum cases are protected by a privacy clause.

The asylum request is likely to exacerbate a tense situation in Belorussia where President Lukashenko, the democratically elected but dictatorially minded leader, is locked in battle with the opposition.

The Belorussian leader said yesterday that he was preparing a decree that would ban "unlawful, anti-state, anti-presidential activities".

He triggered nationwide unrest in April when he pledged to reforge a union with Russia. Seven political parties, from nationalists to Communists, signed a declaration last week denouncing his presidency. Seven thousand pro-nationalist demonstrators took to the streets of Minsk, the capital, last Saturday in a show of defiance.



Workers unload a section of three of Flight 800's passenger seats from a barge

Damage to landing gear boosts TWA bomb theory

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE front landing gear of TWA Flight 800, pulled from the waters off Long Island, has yielded the strongest evidence yet that the jumbo jet was brought down by a bomb.

Investigators were quoted yesterday as saying that the landing gear had suffered "serious concussive damage" indicating that it was close to the source of the explosion.

With the plane lying at 13,700ft, the landing gear would have been shoved in its metal casing inside the fuselage. Divers who hoisted the wreckage from the seabed on Saturday found, however, that the hydraulic mechanism that retracts the nose wheel had been smashed by the explosion.

The vast majority of the wreckage has been torn, mangled pieces of thin metal from the fuselage, "one investigator said. "This was a huge piece of thick steel, and it had been blasted."

The discovery bolsters the theory that the Boeing 747 was split in two by a bomb in the

forward baggage compartment, or possibly in a food cart or toilet above.

The front landing gear is located next to the forward baggage compartment and beneath the first-class seating. It was found near the wreckage of the first-class cabin and other parts of the front of the plane, about 1.5 miles from the main fuselage.

Salvage crews have also recovered a forward cargo door that similarly points to a bomb blast in the front cargo hold. The door was recovered further back along the plane's flight path than the front landing gear, suggesting it was one of the first pieces to be blown off.

James Kallstrom, the FBI's chief investigator, said publicly for the first time on Tuesday night that he favoured one of the three scenarios investigators have identified — a bomb, a missile and mechanical malfunction — but refused to say which. The FBI is waiting for hard forensic evidence before making an official announce-

ment that the crash was the result of a terrorist attack.

The USS Grapple, a salvage vessel equipped with a pilotless submarine and heavy lifting gear, yesterday joined its sister ship, the USS Grasp, at the crash site. The Grapple attempted to hoist up wreckage of the front of the plane, while the Grasp continued to work on the main fuselage.

Investigators hope that sophisticated tests at the FBI crime laboratory outside Washington will reveal chemical residue of any explosive. The absence of positive results has led some to speculate that a bomb might have been made of dynamite, which leaves little residue.

Meanwhile, another TWA Flight 800 flight on the New York-Paris route was forced to turn back shortly after take-off on Tuesday night due to a light warning of an open service door. After major disasters airlines usually rename routes, but TWA has insisted on keeping Flight 800.

Eta bomb warning for France

Madrid: A car dealer was badly injured in Calatayud, near Zaragoza, yesterday by a letter bomb left at his Citroën showroom by Eta, the Basque separatist group (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Spanish police believe the bomb — and a petrol bomb attack earlier yesterday on a Peugeot showroom in Zamudio, near Bilbao, that damaged six cars — could be the start of a wave of Eta attacks on French symbols and business interests in retaliation for France's new close co-operation with Spain against the extremists.

Hermínio Ibáñez Herrero, the Citroën dealer, had his left hand amputated.

Radiation scare at Iran plant

Nicosia: About 25 people were exposed to radioactivity at a gas power station in northern Iran, the International Atomic Agency said yesterday (Michael Theodorou writes). The news clarified a sketchy report in a Tehran newspaper that prompted speculation of a nuclear accident. David Kyd, of the agency, said a radiograph machine had been accidentally left in a pipeline. By the time it was found, staff had suffered mild exposure.

£6m leap in cash for Greenpeace

Amsterdam: Donations to Greenpeace jumped by £6.4 million last year despite a drop in world membership. Greenpeace's management board said in its annual report that high-profile media campaigns on the Brent Spar oil platform and French nuclear testing in the South Pacific pushed worldwide donations to £38.6 million from £32.2 million in 1995. (Reuter)

Pakistan buys Ukraine tanks

Islamabad: Pakistan, stung by US sanctions against weapons sales, has bought more than 300 Russian-built tanks from Ukraine in a £350 million deal. Announcing the purchase, a Pakistan Defence Ministry official did not specify the precise number of T80UD tanks to be delivered over three years. (Reuter)

Kangaroo siege

Sydney: An animal welfare officer had to shoot a sick kangaroo that terrorised an elderly couple by refusing to let them out of their suburban home after taking up residence on their porch. (AP)

Democrats divided over welfare cuts

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS yesterday left the White House struggling to find a compromise after a sweeping overhaul of the American welfare system left President Clinton under fire from his own party.

The House of Representatives was expected to vote last night on a Bill to end the 61-year-old federal guarantee of cash assistance to every poor family with children. Like the Senate, which votes today, both houses are expected to pass the measure easily.

States would get an annual cash grant and be able to design their own programmes to create employment for welfare recipients. The Bill would also cut eligibility for food stamps and deny benefits under most welfare schemes to legal immigrants, limit benefits to five years, and reduce spending by about \$55

billion (£35 billion) over six years. Mr Clinton, expected to receive the Bill before Congress goes into recess at the end of the week, has yet to make a decision but White House sources said he would sign it. The President said: "I hope we can work it out. We just need to keep the kids in mind... the children need to come out ahead."

Within the White House, however, two camps have emerged. Political advisers, mindful of the election and Mr Clinton's campaign promise to "abolish welfare as we know it", have urged him to sign the legislation.

Liberal aides and the left wing of the congressional Democratic Party say the Bill will plunge more than a million children into poverty and want him to veto the proposals.

Indonesians add to democracy demands

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA arrested anti-government campaigners and kept riot police on the streets of Jakarta yesterday in a drive against an increasingly defiant pro-democracy movement.

The Government has been stunned by the first serious challenge to a controlled political order that has given President Suharto a monopoly on power for 30 years. Orders to police to shoot

rioters on sight have ensured peace in Jakarta after violent demonstrations last weekend. But pro-democracy leaders continued issuing statements yesterday demanding the dismantling of a system that guarantees perpetual power for the governing Golkar party, which is certain to win next year's general election.

President Suharto, 75, is guaranteed a seventh term if he wants it. However, the death of his wife in April and his visit to a heart specialist in

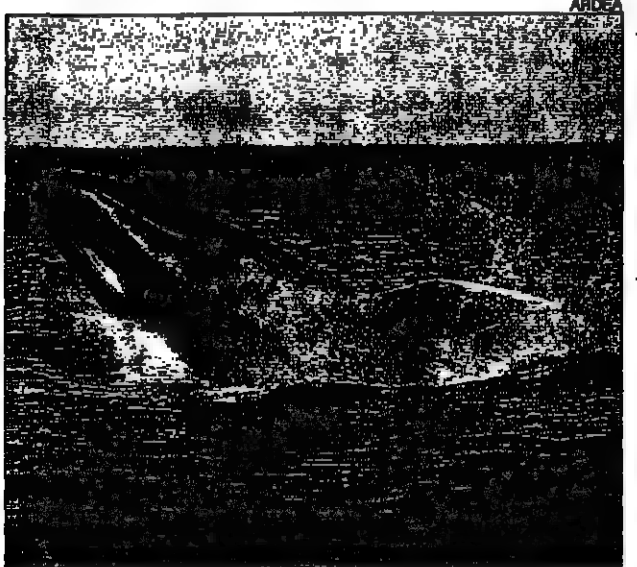
Germany last month have focused attention on his succession. There is no machinery for a proper succession, leaving foreign investors nervous. Last Friday, the stock market dipped on the false rumour that the President had fainted.

The Government described 230 accused rioters who are under arrest as "small worms" and pledged to hunt for what it called the masterminds of the weekend turmoil, in which two men died. The

demonstrations, an unprecedented reaction to years of political repression, were sparked by the Government's involvement in the removal of Megawati Sukarnoputri from the chairmanship of the opposition Democratic Party in June, partly because she posed a credible challenge.

The daughter of Sukarno, Indonesia's founder and first President, is due to go to court today to sue the Government for arranging her removal from the party leadership.

Scientists seize their chance to learn deepest secrets of the blue whale



A blue whale calf, only a baby at 50ft, off California

FROM GILES WHITTILL OFF SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

SECONDS before the whale breathed, a flash of iridescent blue betrayed it. Fresh from a feed and nearly twice the length of a cricket pitch, the largest thing that has lived on Earth was coming to the surface.

It did so more like a submarine than a mammal, breaking the smooth skin of the Pacific first with a bow wave and then with its vast back. Before it was gone, another had surfaced less than a mile away, grazing on the same rich bloom of krill. Then another, followed closely by its calf, a mere 50ft long.

Thirty miles off the southern Californian coast, an unprecedented gathering of great blue whales, once hunted to near extinction, has brought scientists flocking. Their mission is twofold: to monitor the recovery of an impossibly majestic

species and to address a mystery: why have they assembled here?

In one of the biggest concentrations yet, some 200 blue whales have been seen in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary so far this summer. Sightings have increased steadily over the past five years, with the giant creatures gorging on krill that feed on plankton in huge swarms on the edge of the continental shelf.

A cold-water upwelling where prevailing currents meet the islands

means that krill have thrived here for aeons. What baffles scientists is that blue whales have not. Before 1991, sightings were virtually unheard of.

Bob Pitman, an expert aboard a US government research vessel in the area, said: "They may have come from the north or the south, having found new krill or for more complex social reasons." Fast, sleek and none too gregarious, blue whales have kept more secrets from science than

their smaller brethren. Breeding and migration habits remain largely unknown, but the 19-strong scientific team has made some progress.

By listening to the whales from a special 300ft vessel that upends itself like a fishing float, the team has established that they fall silent when feeding, undermining theories that they congregated near the islands after deliberately alerting each other to the krill.

Efforts to learn how often and how deep the whales dive received a boost a few days ago when an adult was tagged with a radio transmitter fired from a crossbow. Blue whales, which have been known to dive to depths of more than 600ft, have been tagged successfully only six times in history, four of them in this sanctuary in the past month, according to Ed Cassano, the sanctuary's manager.

Slaughtered in their hundreds of thousands by whaling fleets operat-

ing mainly near Antarctica, blue whales are thought to have numbered some 400,000 at the start of the century. That figure is now put at 12,000. Listed as an endangered species in 1966, they may be making a slow comeback: 2,000 are thought to feed off California's coast alone.

Captain Fred Benko, one of the few boat-owners able to offer bona fide blue-whale-watching trips, calls the deep waters of the Santa Barbara Channel a "cetacean soup". One day last week it served up, besides the blue whales, a lone minke whale, a large pod of white-sided dolphins and enough common dolphins to churn up water for hundreds of yards around his boat. He guessed there were a thousand.

But Mr Pitman said: "The blue whales could be gone next year. They may just eat up all the krill and then move on. We don't know enough about them."



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FBI agents comb home of Atlanta bomb blast 'hero'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

A LARGE squad of FBI agents yesterday searched the flat of Richard Jewell, the Olympics security guard who is being investigated for the bomb blast in Atlanta last Saturday.

Special agent David Tubbs, an FBI spokesman, said the unusually large number of investigators at the Jewell residence did "not indicate in any way that he has been charged with a crime", and Mr Jewell continued to protest his innocence.

By lunchtime there had been no arrest, although he was being trailed by FBI agents, and forensic experts were conducting tests on evidence from his house. Mr Jewell was co-operating with law enforcers and was seen sitting on the steps outside his home, talking to agents.

Other residents at the Buford Highway block of flats were evacuated by police to enable investigators ease of movement as they conducted a search of the area.

The FBI, which has been criticised for the way it gathered evidence against the Oklahoma bomb suspect, Timothy McVeigh, was keen to be seen proceeding by the book. Mr Tubbs repeatedly said: "Mr Jewell has not been placed under arrest." Behind him, however, special incident vans and a mobile crime laboratory were pulling up for what looked like being a long stay.

The Atlanta Games organisers faced questions about how a man with a chequered security record managed to clear the checks allegedly made on all people working at the Olympics venues. Mr Jew-

ell was not only dismissed from a former security job for "erratic and overzealous" behaviour but was also on record for having tried recently to impersonate a policeman and make an arrest.

Bob Brennan, a Games official, tried to refer security matters to the telephone company that hired the security contractor for whom Mr Jewell works. But Mr Brennan, whose committee made the boast that Atlanta would be

being cleared when the bag exploded. But for Mr Jewell's action, it was said, many more people would have died.

If Mr Jewell is charged with the bombing, comparison will be made to the case of a policeman at the 1984 Olympics. Officer James Pearson of the Los Angeles Police Department dramatically seized hold of a suspect bomb and hurled it to safety after it was attached to a bus full of Turkish athletes. The "bomb" was later found to be a fake, which he himself had planted.

Earlier this week, the FBI confirmed it was including Games workers in its investigation. Psychologists have predicted that the Olympic bomber is a loner, perhaps a military man or a former police officer.

Mr Jewell's neighbours yesterday described him as an unremarkable, though not unfriendly, man, who in fact still wanted to work in the law enforcement business. He may have hoped his actions at Centennial Park would improve his chances of landing a good job. In front of the cameras he had appeared modest, saying: "I don't think I am a hero." He was near the bomb when it exploded and was blown off his feet.

Police will also compare Mr Jewell's voice to the accent of the man who placed the bomb-warning call to police 18 minutes before the explosion. The call was made from a public telephone about ten minutes' walk from where Mr Jewell was working that night.

Letters, page 17
Olympic reports, pages 39-42



Richard Jewell, the Olympic security guard under suspicion of planting the bomb, returns to his flat. He maintains he is innocent

Spotlight falls on obsessive man with a grudge

BY QUENTIN LETTS

RICHARD JEWELL, suspected of the Olympic bombing, matches the stereotype of an American security guard: moustached, overweight and with a love of uniform and a frustrated desire to be a police patrol car officer.

Mr Jewell, 33, has a chequered history in security work. He was sacked as a college campus guard and he left the police after crashing a squad car. He resigned from the force rather than accept demotion to his old job as a jailer and was later arrested for impersonating an officer when trying to make an arrest.

Mr Jewell now lives with his mother

in a shaded condominium block in a quiet Atlanta suburb. Mrs Jewell is distressed by the commotion of reporters and FBI agents outside, and the sound of weeping can be heard through her door.

Mr Jewell went to work in April at Piedmont College, a small Georgia institution where he was employed as a security guard. He was dismissed the following month for "erratic" behaviour. His tendency to investigate the most trifling incident in the smallest detail simply did not suit the college authorities.

When Ray Cleere, the college president, saw Mr Jewell on television after Saturday's bomb and heard him

described as a "hero", he telephoned the FBI to express his doubts. "We felt he needed to be checked out further," he said.

After Piedmont College, Mr Jewell was hired by a security firm that had won a contract to provide guards for the AT&T telephone company at the Atlanta Olympics. He was given duties at a site in Centennial Park, the central area later to be ripped apart by a pipe bomb. The contract passed to another company, but Mr Jewell was kept on the pay roll, his supervisors impressed by his serious approach to his work.

The Atlanta Games organisers were hazy yesterday on what security

passes he had, but said he had been cleared by state and national crime information authorities. Any evidence of a security blunder will be seized on by lawyers representing victims of Saturday's bomb in any court case that may arise.

Security work, one of the boom occupations of the late 20th century, calls for a particular type of man - serious, with a high boredom threshold. More than having a "job's worth" mentality, such people take the view that placing petty obstacles in the way of others is what their job is all about. Mr Jewell, with his elaborate habit of calling people "sir", his beefy gait and his slow drawl, fitted the role perfectly.

Gymnast cashes in on gold

BY QUENTIN LETTS



Strug, now enjoying the sweet scent of success

KERRI STRUG, the gymnast whose pain-beating vault ensured gold for the US women's gymnastics team, has said "yes" to the lucrative demands of commercial endorsements and name branding.

Miss Strug, 18, the academically bright daughter of an Arizona heart surgeon, initially resisted offers from corporations keen to associate themselves with "America's golden girl".

The only member of the US gymnastics team not to have an agent, she said she put a higher value on the university place she recently won at the University of California than on mere riches.

Now Marnon has won. She has engaged the services of Sheryl Shabe, a tough-nosed agent, and decided to

turn down her athletic scholarship. Her final vault, made despite an ankle injury, secured national recognition. She was telephoned by President Clinton, fated wherever she went and pictured on numerous magazine covers.

One Hollywood agent promised her "millions" if she devoted herself to capitalising on the Olympics gold.

Mary-Lou Retton, American gold medal-winning gymnast at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, has made pots of money. Her picture adorns cereal packets, and it seems she is seldom off the television.

Miss Strug will hope she can do as well, although a weedy voice may stunt the number of offers to do radio commercial voiceovers.

Peru navy men held for drugs racket

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PERUVIAN police have arrested two high-ranking navy officers accused of running cocaine shipments to Europe on naval ships, confirming a wave of revelations in the past month that members of the security forces are involved in drug trafficking.

Colonel Pedro Gómez and Luis Cordone were handcuffed and driven from their naval command offices in the capital, Lima, on Tuesday night to a police station where they are facing charges of running drugs to Europe on naval ships.

The arrests come after several police raids on naval cargo ships docked in the port of Callao in the past month, in which more than 220lb of cocaine were found hidden in the engine rooms of the two ships. The officers arrested yesterday captained the two ships on various journeys to European ports.

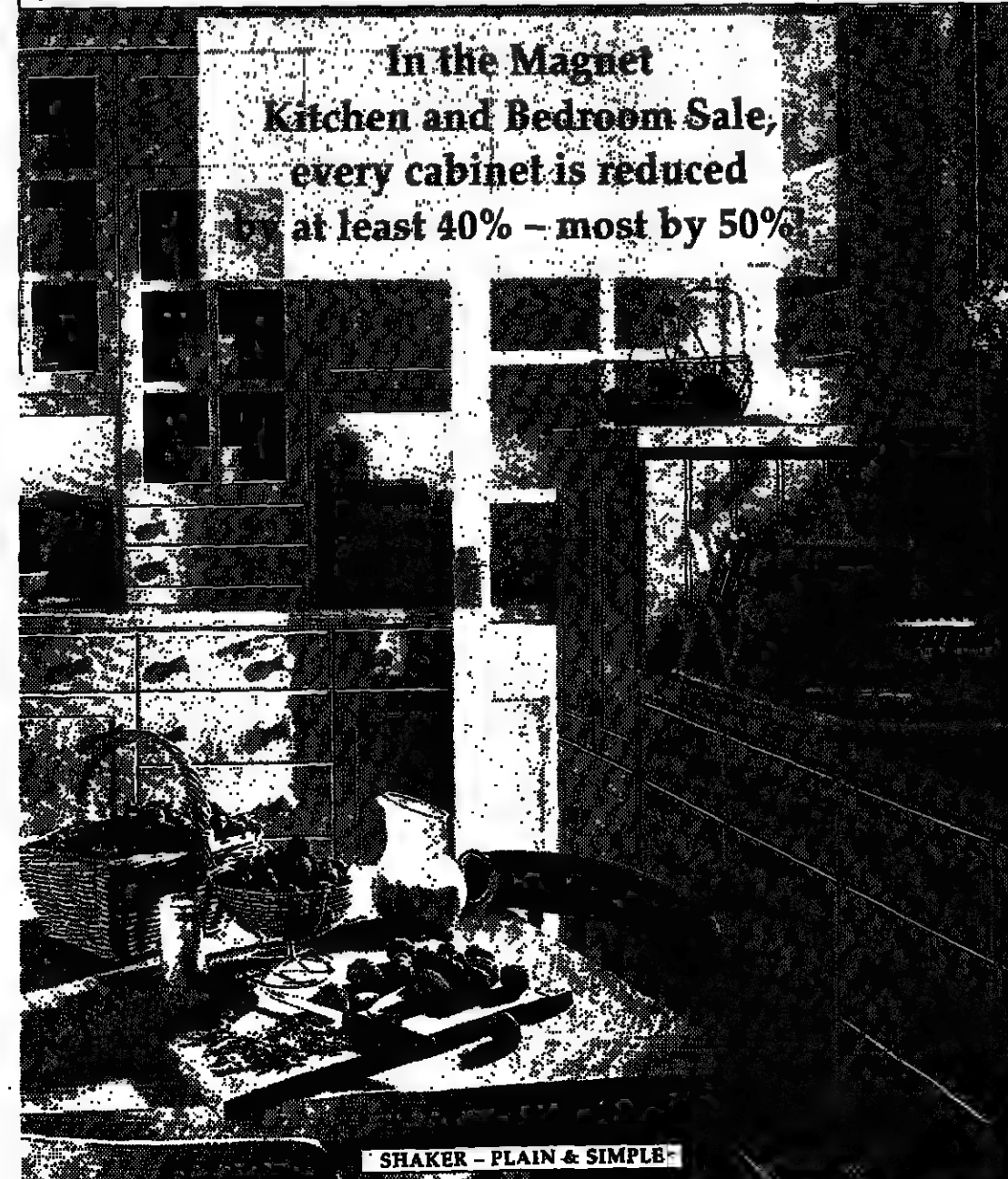
President Fujimori said it was possible members of the security forces were involved in drug trafficking. His Government would launch a massive investigation to "clean up" the forces.

Police hauled 383lb of cocaine from a Peruvian Air Force DC8, often used by the President, as it was about to take off for Europe with ten senior air force officers in May. The ten officers face trial for running a drug-trafficking racket which involved regular air force flights to London, Rome and Amsterdam.

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Maybe I just grew up too soon

Susan Tully explains why she left the security and near six-figure salary offered by *EastEnders* in search of new horizons and a fresh start. Interview by Mary Riddell

Michelle has not altered. Michelle from *EastEnders*. "What are you doing here, Chelle?" fans will ask her in the supermarket, puzzled to find her on the wrong continent when, as every soap aficionado knows, she is supposed to be in America.

Susan Tully is well aware of the power of soap opera mythology. For ten years she played Britain's most famous single mother, at first with delight and later with the fear of someone who saw her own life shrivelling away as the power of her character blossomed.

So she got out. New world (theatre in Hull, as it transpired), new horizons, new start. Nine months have passed, and Tully — to her credit — is still defiantly Michelle: drinking tea, smoking Silk Cut, flipping through her copy of *Marie Claire* and, occasionally, bouncing up and down on high-rise pilmsolls to inspect her new hairdo in the hotel mirror.

"What do you think? Cost me a fortune," she says, in Michelle's North London nasal drone. You may have heard it, resolutely unmodified from *EastEnders* days, on *Genderquake*, the programme on the changing face of society she presented on Channel 4.

You will hear it, slightly muffled, on the football pitches of Ghana, in the next TV round of *Comic Relief*. Tully flies out to Africa tomorrow, the only woman in a 12-strong celebrity football team including Angus Deayton and Skinner and Baddiel. She had brought her sports kit with her so that she could fit in some training at the gym afterwards.

Tully first started kicking a football around on the housing estate where she was

brought up, the daughter of a North London watchcase-maker. Hers was the sort of background in which the field never looked likely until she was introduced to the Anna Scher theatre, a school adept at nurturing talent in working-class children.

By the time she was nine, she was on television. In her teens, she was a star of *Grange Hill*. At 18, shortly after she left school with four O levels, she won the part in *EastEnders* which would render her secure for life.

Being Michelle encompassed everything she could dream of. A salary close to six figures. An entrée into a world of parties and premieres where she could dance and drink with established stars. And, as the role evolved, an acting job with underones which lifted it from soap to social cleansing agent. On a normal week, her storylines explored meningitis, abortion, HIV and the life of the single mother. On an abnormal one, dinner party conversations hinged on whether or not she would marry Lofty and who the father of her baby might be. Susan Tully, in short, had it made. Her background suggested that she would cling resolutely to lucrative stardom. Real-life Cinderellas and Eliza Doolittles do not normally elect to reverse the script.

Not only did she press the rewind button. She did so with no firm offer of other employment and no certainty, typecast as she was, that she would ever work again. By then she was convinced that her identity was disappearing. Careful as she is to praise her *EastEnders* colleagues, the impression she gives is of an existence which had become narrow and stifling. Even in the early days, the

'On a bad day, life was a black hole I could fall into'



Nine months after leaving *EastEnders*, Susan Tully has devised a series for Channel 4, wants to move into directing and is studying for an Open University degree

seeds of dissatisfaction were there. "I was 18, earning ridiculous money, and I lapped it up. I did the whole scene — clubs, parties, getting drunk, having a fab time. Then I just stopped enjoying it. Maybe I grew up too soon. "I had to work very hard to create a life outside *EastEnders*. Kids aren't told to cope. The only advice we were ever given was not to give our phone number to the press. Anna Scher and mum and dad helped me. They're the business, and they just let me go out and learn.

"I had ten brilliant years. But then I thought: is this all I can do with my life? If I get married and have kids, will I have to tell them that I've spent the last 20 years playing make-believe? I handed my notice in nine months before I left, but I'd thought about it for a year before that.

"On a good day, life seemed like a big, blank canvas. On a bad day, it was a black hole I could fall into. I didn't know what life would be like away from the series, and the only thing I didn't want was to have to do crap to pay the

mortgage. *EastEnders* became emotionally and mentally hard work for me. My world was very small and apart from one or two people I never socialised with the cast.

I liked them all, but that wasn't enough. I could see friends and family enjoying lives that were becoming richer and more varied, and I was the one who was stuck.

"I worked on a worst-case scenario. If I never earned another penny, how long could I exist before I had to

sign on? I sorted that out, then for months the words were sitting in my mouth. I want to leave. I knew they would change my life, so I had to be damned sure I wanted it."

EastEnders offered her a vast pay rise, which she declined. They gave her a huge farewell party which induced no nostalgia. Nine months on, she has stayed working, both in theatre and on TV. She has also devised a series for Channel 4, wants to move into directing and — on quiet weeks — sits in her flat in Muswell Hill, north

London, and studies for an Open University degree. And still the ghost of Michelle lingers. "It's inevitable that I would be typecast. I'm sure it's happening now, but I don't know how much because it's hard to tell how people perceive you."

Almost certainly as rather brave. Endearingly, she declines to spin any sort of worthy line about how she gave up soap stardom to become a Really Serious Actress. It was just that she needed to do something different. That she has achieved.

In this week's *Genderquake* she got to dress up as a man. She also chaired an hour-long TV debate on the social issues aired by the series: a prospect she regarded as less enticing than having her shins kicked by Skinner and Baddiel.

She didn't know the members of the panel. Academics, think-tankers, people of whom she had never heard. And people who, for the first time in her months of freedom, were mercifully just as unfamiliar with Michelle from *EastEnders*.

Blair's millionaire backer

Labour's richest benefactor is not even a member of the party, says Philip Deives Broughton

As Tony Blair shuffles his pack in preparation for the general election, one man who might really make a difference to Labour's chances will be waiting around a cool villa in Provence.

Paul Hamlyn was until recently in hospital in New

York recovering from complications after a routine operation. His £500,000 gift to the Labour Party, meanwhile, will be financing more than half of the promotional campaign for their new *Road to the Manifesto*.

Labour's glamour crowd is taking on the pallor of a troupe of ageing Bluebell Girls. At every fundraising event for almost a decade now, the same old faces have been wheeled out: John Mortimer, Stephen Fry, Ken Follett, Jeremy Irons. Hamlyn, on the other hand, never shows up. He is not even a member of the party.

His importance to Labour's bottom line, however, is enormous. A £230 million fortune and a propensity to Macanese philanthropy makes him a good man to have onside.

His charitable trust, set up in 1987, now has assets of £64 million, and has given money to the Bodleian Library in Oxford (£1 million), the Royal Opera House (£200,000 a year), and the National Commission on Education (£1 million).

Despite the size of his donations to Labour, however, he is less socialist than just mildly skewed to the left. His friend and business partner, Sir Terence Conran, attributes this to Hamlyn having grown up under the Labour Government of the late 1940s.

"Our views tend to the left rather than the right and we have a strong belief in democracy. It's not much more complicated than that."

The son of Czech immigrants, Hamlyn changed his name early on from Hamberger. He was tired of being nicknamed "sausage". This self-confessed MEM — "Middle European Melancholic" — grew up in an intellectual St John's Wood family. Aged 22, with an inheritance of £350, he started his publishing business from a barrow in Camden market.

Two fortunes were to follow. The first came when he sold his publishing company in 1964 for £2.25 million. He

amassed his next pile when he sold Octopus books to Reed Elsevier for £530 million, personally netting more than £150 million.

Apart from Conran, other close friends include Sir Claus Moser, the former Master of Wadham College, Oxford, and Rupert Murdoch, with whom he worked as joint managing director of News International in the 1970s.

It was through another friend, Lord Owen, that Hamlyn first became involved in politics. "He was one of many previous Labour supporters who helped out with the SDP," says Owen. "He was particularly good advising us on media presentation, but he is not a politician. Paul is by nature on the side of the underdog. He has clear ends and committed views."

Typical of his style of giving was his gift of £100,000 in 1990 for the specific purpose of developing Labour policies for the arts and cultural issues. Every season he buys out seats at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and distributes them free or at severely cut-price rates to those who could otherwise never afford to go.

Many feel that his charitable and business activities deserve more than just the CBE he received in 1993. What has prevented higher honours is the cocksure attitude he showed when his company published Peter Wright's *Spycatcher*. Friends close to the Tories pressed him to help out the Government by not publishing the book. He said that if he was to be persuaded, "nothing less than a dukedom will do".

Most of the business interests now playing footsie with Labour are doing little more than hedging their bets. The party's celebrity luvvies are squealing that Blair does not show them enough attention. Hamlyn, meanwhile, a dandyish, ruthless, rather sentimental figure, simply hands over his cheque and, seemingly unconcerned, retires to his Provencal home.



Hamlyn: ruthless

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Tears must not blind our MPs

Magnus Linklater on a wise response to Dunblane

Advancing an argument against a tidal wave of human emotion is never an easy thing to do. Anyone who was in Dunblane on March 13, along with queues of harrowed parents waiting to find out whether their children were alive, understands instinctively what they feel about guns. If there was one thing that united them all, apart from their grief, it was the deep conviction that no one, ever again, should have access to the kind of weaponry used by Thomas Hamilton to destroy 17 lives.

As details emerged of the lethal firepower at his disposal, that conviction was reinforced. The overwhelming cry was for handguns to be banned. Dr Mick North, a widower whose only child, a five-year-old girl, was killed, summed up the national sentiment: "For all our sakes, no more guns and no more worship of guns."

It is a view that has since gathered huge support. The Dunblane parents who have lobbied with single-minded intensity for the ownership of all handguns to be banned have collected 700,000 signatures. They have won backing from the Labour Party, from teachers, unions, and the great majority of ordinary voters who have been polled on the issue. Most people, when asked, in the words of one Dunblane campaigner, whether "the rights of 57,000 gun owners outweigh the life of one child" have answered with a resounding "no".

Hence their disgust on learning that not all MPs necessarily agree. The disclosure that the Commons Home Affairs Committee has failed to agree on a united policy on handguns and has come out against a ban on private ownership is regarded as a betrayal of the Dunblane children.

The realisation that it has split along party lines, with six Conservatives outvoting the five Labour members, has only served to compound the anger. The result suggests that an issue which should cut across all party divisions will, when it comes before the House of Commons, degenerate into just another political wrangle.

The immediate reaction, and the easy one, is to assume that once again, vested interests, in the form of the gun lobby, have won the day; that, just as change after the Hungerford massacre was limited to automatic weapons, so Dunblane will be followed by weak and ineffective legislation — a mild tightening of existing laws, a slap on the wrist for police procedures perhaps, a nod in the direction of more efficient vetting of licence applicants. Otherwise the gun clubs and their members will be left largely as they are.

That ignores two things. The first is that what has actually divided the MPs is not so much the principle of restricting handguns as the best way of achieving it. The other is that Lord Cullen, whose exhaustive report on

the massacre will be the only one that ultimately matters, is unlikely himself to propose a blanket ban on private ownership. He is all too aware of the impracticality of an all-out prohibition and the risks of driving gun-ownership underground. He is a man who prefers to work with the grain than against it, and I am willing to bet that what he does recommend will be far more effective than some of the instant and emotive solutions which are currently being canvassed.

Those who have attended the inquiry have noted the time and attention he has given to striking a balance between the interests of the public and those of the shooting fraternity — though there has been no mistaking in which direction his sympathies lie.

He has shown a particular antipathy towards the use of rapid-firing arms and seems likely to recommend a complete ban on self-loading semi-automatics. He has spent many hours on the inadequacy of procedures for granting firearms certificates, on the legal manufacture of home-produced ammunition, and the means by which a member of a gun club can have access to as many as 25 guns if he wants. All these are likely to feature among his recommendations.

What in the end may be more important, however, is the effect of his conclusions on national attitudes to the culture of the gun.

In Australia, where the Port Arthur massacre has had almost as profound an effect on popular opinion as Dunblane, this has been a central feature of the debate. John Howard, the Prime Minister, has won impressive cross-party and inter-state support for legislation banning the use of military-style automatic and semi-automatic rifles by force of a simple argument. He has asked Australians whether they want to pursue the American approach, with its inalienable right to carry guns, or whether they want a safer society. The answer has been resoundingly in favour of the latter, with the result that legislation is likely to be in place by the end of this year despite opposition from a vociferous gun lobby. Handguns have not, as in Britain, been at issue, and will remain legal but can only be held under tightly controlled licence. The types of weapons used by Martin Bryant at Port Arthur will be banned altogether.

Lord Cullen will want to take the public with him in just the same way. But he knows that unless the police, the gun clubs, the doctors, councillors and social services who will all be instrumental in making his recommendations stick are convinced that they are workable, he will have failed in his purpose.

The worst disservice he could do to the Dunblane parents would be to listen too closely to the expressions of outrage that have greeted the Commons committee decision, and to allow the heart to rule the head.



Crown and constitution

We are all stakeholders in the monarchy, guardian of our liberties

The personal problems of the Royal Family have distracted attention from the much more profound constitutional issues which would have to be faced whatever the royal personalities were. The monarchy is the pivot of Britain's constitutional machinery. Constitutional changes are bound to affect the functioning of the Crown.

This is even true of the proposal to remove hereditary peers from the House of Lords. That would leave the monarchy, with the hereditary offices of the Court itself, as the only survivor of the hereditary part of the British constitution. The exclusion of hereditary peers would be a further attack on the hereditary idea itself, an idea which once seemed so natural but now seems quite unnatural to many people. Anything which isolates the monarchy probably tends to weaken it, and the abolition of hereditary peers would be a small step towards an elective presidency.

Scottish devolution is potentially a much greater problem. Its critics argue that the proposed Scottish parliament will inevitably quarrel with the Westminster Parliament and will eventually lead to the breakup of the United Kingdom. In theory, an independent Scotland could choose to become a member of the Commonwealth, while retaining the Queen as Queen of Scotland. Canada, Australia and New Zealand have kept the Queen so far, though there is strong republican feeling in all three countries. Yet if Scotland does break away from the United Kingdom, it is likely to be as a result of angry controversies which may portray the Crown as an English institution, despite its long Scottish history. There is at least a strong possibility that an independent Scotland would become some sort of European republic.

The Welsh case is more remote, but is still quite difficult. The Welsh Nationalists certainly regard the Crown as an alien English institution, and have made noisy protests against the Queen herself. Indeed, the monarch is more remote in Wales than in Scotland, where Holyrood, Balmoral and the Queen's role in the Scottish Church form strong historic links. There is no royal home in Wales, and it may now be too late to establish one: it might merely become a focus for nationalist protests.

These devolution issues are much more important than those of the House of Lords; the European issues



The Queen in Parliament: tradition underpinning reform

are even more important than those of devolution. If Britain fulfils the full intentions of the Maastricht treaty, and becomes a subordinate province in a single European state, with a single currency, a single tax system, a powerful court, a powerful parliament and a single voice in foreign

republican government of Europe, over which the voters have next to no control. We cannot vote out Brussels. It is ironic that the triumph of the democratic over the hereditary principle in Britain which would be represented by the abolition of the hereditary peers may coincide with the triumph of the bureaucratic over the democratic principle in Europe. The 20th century may have seen both the morning and the afternoon of European democracy.

William Rees-Mogg

In the modern British constitution, the function of the Crown is to be a focus for the unity, the independence and the democracy of the United Kingdom. So long as the United Kingdom remains united, independent and democratic, the Crown will remain as a powerful symbol of national identity.

If the United Kingdom disintegrates, and British democracy is subsumed in a European bureaucracy, the Crown will have lost its function, but the British people will have lost their liberty. We are all, in the new Labour phrase, stakeholders in the monarchy.

The title is more than academic

Roger Scruton wants fewer professors

Professor was once a rare title in Britain, a mark of distinction which indicated that someone had competed successfully for a chair. Chairs were few and far between, and the privileges attached to them carried a duty to live up to the title. This was especially so in my own field of philosophy, where posts named after benefactors or famous people stood like beacons above the intellectual landscape. Whoever occupied the White's Chair of moral philosophy or the Wykeham Chair of logic at Oxford did so not because he was good at a certain job but because he was as eminent as an academic philosopher could be.

The reputation of those chairs remains. But by an inexorable process, the title of professor has lost its dignity. The expansion of the universities during the 1950s and 1960s produced a plethora of chairs, and only a meagre fund of talent from which to fill them. It was inevitable that the curriculum, too, would then expand, in order to provide for students who lacked the capacity for scholarship and needed "relevance" instead. New subjects were constructed for political rather than intellectual reasons: cultural studies, social work, media studies, women's studies, peace studies, "education", and international relations — each with its salaried professoriat, its "learned" journals, "peer assessment", and higher degrees. Finally, in a move to which almost no one objected, the polytechnics were renamed as universities, so that a new wave of "university professors" emerged from the ranks of those who were so intellectually feeble that they had not been able to obtain a university leavership even during the Sixties, when leaverships were two a penny.

It is not surprising, then, that Oxford academics, who could obtain the title of professor in the twink of an eye elsewhere, should have pressed the university to confer it on them in any case. In a heroic gesture of capitulation, Oxford has created 162 new professors, who will have the title but no chairs, so that only those who are already able to tell the difference between first-rate and second-rate scholarship will know which Oxford professor truly deserves the title. And for such people the title serves no function in any case.

Does this matter? I am inclined to think that it does. One of the valuable features of the British university system is that intellectual distinction has always been recognised as a good in itself — a good that has nothing to do with teaching or administration. The title of professor was the sign of this. You knew that someone who enjoyed it stood above the heads of his colleagues: his works and thoughts were to that extent more worthy of study, and he himself more worthy of esteem. There was an intellectual status to which the academic life could lead, which had no equivalent in terms of money or power, and which was also recognised by the world outside. The title was a public acknowledgement of this status and a way in which the university legitimised its scholarly isolation.

In America, the title of professor is borne by every university teacher. Professor means teacher; and to be called professor is no different from being called "sir" by children in a classroom. This suits the American temperament and it accords with the egalitarian nature of American education. In which any student, however dim his talents, can collect a degree, simply by signing on for the right courses and repeating what his "professor" wants to hear. The "grade inflation" which affects American degrees affects also the titles of those who teach for them. For every Professor Quine or Kripke, there are a hundred others teaching Elvis, aerobics, feminism, marketing, football, "quest theory" or whatever is in your professor's head today.

The professors themselves begin to see their role in political terms, hoping thereby to attract the admiration of their students and the attention of the world outside. Political correctness is one result of this. Another is the literature of American feminism: attention-seeking screams from small-minded hysterics, for whom the title of professor is the beginning and not the end of their labours. In such circumstances, to be a professor is less a mark of distinction than a licence to bore.

Many complaints have been made against the politicisation of our universities. Until now, however, these complaints have been largely ungrounded. By holding on to the distinction between the university and the polytechnic, our educational system explicitly acknowledged the difference between disinterested learning and the pursuit of "relevance".

Little by little, however, we are moving in the American direction, where there will be a degree for every student, and a title for every teacher. Only those who already have an education will know where to look for it, while those who have no education will encounter it only by chance.

The author has held chairs of aesthetics and philosophy at London and Boston.

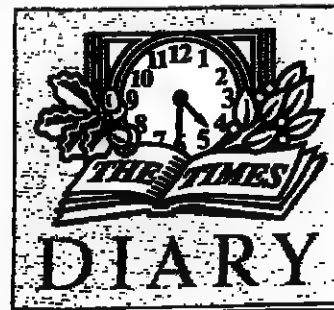
Bad korma

NOWHERE has Ian Botham and Allan Lamb's libel defeat been greeted with more sorrow than at the Indus Indian restaurant in Doncaster. Botham had booked his favourite curry house for a triumphal feast this weekend and eyes were watering in anticipation of a blow-out to make even his binges look like afternoon tea at Lord's.

Botham is booked to take a party of 15 for a night out at the restaurant owned by Karim Din, who acted as a character witness for him in the trial. A special fresh lobster banquet was planned by staff, who are clearly in awe of Beefy's prodigious appetite.

"He eats a lot of food. He can eat a hell of a lot," says Din's son, John, reverently. "He's been coming here for about 20 years and we send him food for his charity walks. He loves his onion bhajis. We gave him 300 to last the week last time. He can eat them."

A week's provisions to blast Botham on his way doesn't stop there. "A hundred spare wings (sic), 120 seekh kebabs, 100 mince-meat kebabs, 60 landoori chickens, 50 king prawns, 130 chicken tikkas and 40 portions of rice," lists John



of one Botham order. "He had a few friends with him." At the Indus they hope Botham will still drop in to cheer himself up. "But perhaps it will be a little less extravagant." Local residents are said to be more than a little relieved.

Shove over

THERE has been an extra edge to the sweaty struggles in the Olympic freestyle wrestling ring, where brother has been pitched against brother. Luchman and Elmadi Zhabrallov are Chechens who refused to compete for Russia because of the political situation. So Luchman, 34, turned out for

Moldavia and Elmadi, 30, was adopted by faraway Kazakhstan. On Tuesday they were drawn against each other. It was a slippery and close-run thing but youth won the day.

"In our culture youth respects the elders and it's the young guys who lose to the older guys," moaned Luchman. But there was no bitterness. Elmadi is now going for gold and the coach shouting him on from the corner is one Luchman Zhabrallov. "Wrestling him is like wrestling me," said Elmadi.

Bye line

RUMOURS at the *Evening Standard*, London's local newspaper, were flying faster than grouse over heather moors yesterday with journalists expecting an imminent announcement about their tweedy Editor and liberator of Port Stanley, Max Hastings.

Ever since Max's overlord Sir David English was seen taking lunch recently with Dominic Lawson, the Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, gossip-mongers have been hard at it. A fishing holiday to Iceland with the paper's proprietor Lord Rothermere confirmed their worst fears: Rothermere was letting the old boy down gently, perhaps with a "promotion" upstairs.

But by yesterday evening, as hardened newsmen became quivering jellies in the fevered atmosphere, no announcement came. Max was on another holiday, with his friend Michael Green, head of Carlton, and executives began to reassure themselves. "I've never known a rumour about an Editor that has been right," said one. There's always a first time.

Class acts

SCHOOLBOY Geordies are advised to ignore any careers advice offered by Ram Wallace, deputy headmaster of Gosforth High



School, Newcastle. Ten years ago, he told Alan Shearer that a career in professional football might not be such a good idea. A £15 million transfer later, and Wallace's advice ranks with Daedalus's suggestion that Icarus go get himself a tan: "When Alan said he wanted to be a professional footballer I said: 'Pull the other one...'"

Worse, Shearer was not the first pupil Wallace had poorly advised. He also told the guitarist Mark Knopfler that his adolescent strumming was leading nowhere. Knopfler of course then found Croesus riches with Dire Straits, the hugely successful pop group.

Family politics

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is empire building. Yet another member of the extended Bottomley family is now involved in politics. But Tristram Hunt, her cousin, is working as a backroom boy for the Labour leader, Tony Blair.

Tristram's mother, Perdita Hunt, is well-placed as the head of communications at the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which allocates lottery funds, and she is directly accountable to Mrs Bottomley. Young Tristram, who just picked up a First in History from Trinity College, Cambridge,



David Wynne: Princess's trust?

started a few days ago in Blair's office at the House of Commons. The job is not too exacting: he only spends two days a week there.

While his estranged wife cuts her links with 100 charities, the Prince of Wales will be taking unusual interest in one particular charity. Press reports at the weekend focused on a fine-looking chap by the name of David Wynne, an administrator with the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts who's off to work for the Princess. Prince Charles is ABSA's patron.

P.H.S



LACK OF VISION

Oflot needs better direction

The Office of the National Lottery's self-proclaimed "vision" is to be "recognised as the independent regulator... and to play our part in ensuring that the UK National Lottery becomes the best run lottery in the world". Though it pronounces no verdict on these ambitions, it is hard to imagine that the Public Accounts Committee believes that Oflot has yet hit this target. Yesterday its MPs charged Oflot's Director-General, Peter Davis, with "serious errors of judgment" and spelled out defects in the supervision and choice of the lottery operators, Camelot. The report underlines that Oflot cannot realise its aims under Mr Davis.

As the State transfers economic activity from its own domain to the private sector, so the importance of ensuring high-quality regulation grows. Successful regulation requires integrity, transparency and judgment. These elements must combine effectively not only to ensure that the regulator acts "with all due propriety" but so that everyone can feel sure that there is no possibility of impropriety. Nobody has suggested that Mr Davis breached any rules by accepting travel in America from a firm taking an important role in the establishment of the lottery. The award of the lottery franchise had already been made when Mr Davis travelled, and he declared the journeys.

What understandably surprised the MPs was that Mr Davis had difficulty seeing that taking free flights from a lottery contractor might raise questions about his impartiality. The simplest way to avoid clouding a regulatory organisation's reputation is to avoid activities incompatible with strict, evident neutrality. As the rebukes from both the Select Committee and the Heritage Secretary have implied, Mr Davis's mistake was not a failure to respect rules, but a failure to realise that the taxpayer would happily have paid for his flights in order to leave his office untainted by suspicion.

The charge that Mr Davis has exercised his responsibilities in a passive and unimaginative way runs through the MPs' other criticisms of Oflot's reluctance to be tougher with Camelot. The committee's extended interview with Mr Davis corroborates this charge more convincingly than the MPs' report itself. Mr Davis is revealed as instinctively reluctant to act in the open and as a man with a feeble grasp of serving the public interest. The picture now assembled of how Mr Davis came to select Camelot was only put together with difficulty in separate inquiries by the National Audit Office and by the Public Accounts Committee. In Oflot's recent annual report, Mr Davis hints at his objection to being second-guessed by remarking that his balance of priorities "can easily be criticised by those who would prefer a different judgment to have been made". The carping, in other words, is sour grapes from disappointed bidders.

If Mr Davis aimed this barb at the MPs, the claim is absurd. The committee does not say that Camelot should not have been awarded the franchise for the lottery. They do repeatedly say that the way in which the factors were weighed left them worried. Their report is not designed to make Mr Davis change his mind but to get him to take a wider view of his task. They several times urge Oflot's Director-General to take "a more active approach" or a "strong and active role", plainly irritated by Mr Davis's restricted definition of his duties. Should it really be necessary for the MPs to spell out to Mr Davis that he should ensure that all bidders are treated fairly? The MPs thought they needed to, because Mr Davis had reminded them that he had no legal duty to promote competition or a level playing field.

The committee's report leaves one impression clear above all: Mr Davis is not up to his job. Mrs Bottomley, who appointed him, should act accordingly.

CRIMES OF CONSCIENCE

Sincere ideals are no grounds for acquittal

A clear conscience cannot excuse what to many appears obvious criminal behaviour. The female members of a Christian peace group acquitted of criminal damage to a Hawk fighter jet are sincere women of previous good character but they are also responsible for thousands of pounds worth of damage. Their friends and supporters may rejoice at their freedom but broader liberties are threatened by suggestion that the law may be defied and property wantonly damaged in the name of principle.

Three women, Lotta Kronlid, Andrea Needham and Joanna Wilson, walked free after a Liverpool jury heard how they broke into a British Aerospace factory and caused some £1.5 million worth of damage to a jet. A fourth woman, Angela Zelter, who did not join the three saboteurs but helped plan the attack was acquitted of conspiracy. The women made no attempt to deny the damage but argued they did not have the criminal intent to be convicted. They defended themselves on the ground that they were averting a greater crime by stopping the aircraft being used by the Indonesian government to terrorise occupied East Timor. The jury were happy to accept that the women did not have the necessary criminal intent to be convicted.

Sympathy for the women's political position would not be misplaced. Since Indonesia illegally occupied East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, in 1975 nearly 200,000 people have been killed by the Government, according to Amnesty International estimates. Indonesia's President Suharto is ailing but his armed forces still display a brutal vigour in suppressing the rights of the East Timorese people. They

have done so equipped and, sometimes, trained by the West.

Anger is understandable. But there is no justification for resorting to vandalism to advertise injustice. That way anarchy lies. In a democracy like the United Kingdom impassioned protesters can organise, petition, write, lobby, hector and march. Sound arguments and good organisation can sway opinion and influence governments. Damaging private property is not the way to change public policy. The four women may have been sincere but then so, in their way, are the anti-vivisectionists and Irish republicans who defy the law in the name of ideology. If individual conscience is to be the ultimate court of appeal then there can be no guarantee of the order on which liberty depends. From Robespierre to Raskolnikov those who have placed their principles above the established law have found themselves moral desperadoes.

Justice should, of course, always be tempered with mercy, but that is the judge's duty, not the jury's. In the past juries have acquitted the guilty in order to spare petty offenders cruel punishments or, in Clive Ponting's case, because they may have believed the Official Secrets Act was being used to protect the party in Government and not the State. But it is dangerous for any jury to lay aside the law and prefer empathy to evidence. Justice is blindfold for a reason. The political colouring of an action should be irrelevant to questions of guilt or innocence. The Liverpool four admit their vandalism, and the court that allows them to escape the consequences of their actions is sending a wrong signal to many impassioned protesters.

PIG-HOO-O-O-EY!

Great Britain could win Olympic gold when pigs might fly

Pig-racing sounds a comical as well as an unpredictable event. The Gadarene tendency of pigs to stampede when prodded in any direction other than their own thrashed way would lead to more false starts and opportunist jostling than even Linford Christie makes. The low undercarriages and short trotters of pigs are not made for jumping. Nevertheless, a steepchase for pigs was held yesterday at the Clogher Valley agriculture show in County Tyrone. There were 20 races for three dozen yearling Duroc large white Landrace crosses. They scampered down a track of 100 metres, jumping fences a foot high. And the runners ran under such whimsical names as Lester Piggott and Douglas Hogg.

But pig-racing is intrinsically no more absurd than women's football or synchronised swimming seemed a century ago. In the primitive modern Olympics men competed at rope-climbing, shooting pigeons, and 100 metres swimming for sailors. These are events no stranger to an objective observer than racing pigs. Horses have longer legs and were painted by Stubbs. But dressage is as bizarre as flying pigs.

Pig has been turned into a joke by the obsolescent and dietetically incorrect British breakfast of bacon and eggs, and by modern factory farming of protein pellets that will soon lead to a scare about mad pig disease. But pig was a fierce hero before he was domesticated. Mythology bristles with destructive and elusive boars that had to be

hunted by the hero as a ritual ordeal. The pig often won. And pig was the ferocious symbol of English kings and the old English forest patrolled by swineherds for the mast.

The English have a familiar relationship with their domestic animals. Dogs look up to them. Cats look down at them. But pigs recognise them for what they are, and look them straight in the eye. Samuel Johnson, England's secular saint, saw their potential. "Pigs are a race unjustly calumniated. Pig has, it seems, not been wanting to man, but man to pig. We do not allow him time for his education; we kill him at a year old."

The British invented sports and codified them in the 19th century. Most sports and games, from cock-fighting to cricket and pugilism were attractive as a spectacle for wasting time away from work and making money by betting. So the Prime Minister and Minister for Sport need hold no post mortems over Britain's "lack of medals" at the Atlanta Olympics. The Games are for individuals. They should not be league tables of chauvinism. Other countries have learnt the rules since London in 1908, when Britain won 56 gold, 50 silver and 39 bronze medals, some for sports odder than pig-racing. But with a committee and codes of conduct for the pig sport, Britain could win gold at Sydney in 2000. No doubt Wisconsin pig-breeders would have a call to make their pigs run faster. But British pigs would have a flying start over the squat Vietnamese pigs from the Pacific nations who are so mortifyingly ahead of us at Atlanta.

Choice of new UN Secretary-General

From Mr D. John Shaw

Sir, For one who worked in the service of the United Nations system for over thirty years, your news and leader, "After Boutros" (July 25), about the continuing squabbles over the appointment of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations is a reminder of the urgency of arriving at a rational formula for electing the leader of the world's most important institution.

The role of the UN will become even more important in the years ahead as the interlocking crises of population, food, employment, migration, money, debt, energy, environment and human security—all with global dimensions—demanding global solutions—take their toll.

A number of proposals have already been made in the general debate on UN reform concerning the electoral process for the Secretary-General. These include: serious consideration by governments of the necessary qualifications for the post; a single seven-year term; cessation of individual campaigning; agreed rules concerning nominations and a timetable for elections; well organised search for the best candidates worldwide; inclusion of women as candidates; high-level consideration of candidates by governments; and avoidance of an election or selection process that would result in the appointment of the "lowest common denominator".

Is it not time that rules of appointment are drawn up before the process for choosing the next Secretary-General begins? The job and the institution are too important for the old habits to continue.

Yours faithfully,
D. JOHN SHAW
(Head, Policy Affairs Service, UN World Food Programme, 1990-94),
112 Kenwood Drive,
Beckenham, Kent.
July 25.

From the Director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, Your leading article today is far from fair towards Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali and what he has tried to do during his term of office. It makes no mention of the important "Agenda for Peace" which was published in 1992 and subsequently added to, and no mention of the struggles which he endured when the Security Council served out mandates to him in various war zones while failing to give him the resources needed to carry them out.

Nor does it mention his efforts, in a very hostile climate of naked monetarism among some of the protagonists, to seek a renewal of sustainable development priorities and environmental protection.

It is, in our view, quite disgraceful for the American Administration, the biggest debtor to the UN (as you point out), to sound off publicly on the suitability or otherwise of Dr Boutros Ghali for a second term in office. It opens up for close scrutiny the scandal of the veto in a decision which should surely involve all 185 members of the United Nations.

This association has long argued for a proper evaluation of the major challenges and priorities facing the next Secretary-General, of the characteristics he or she should possess, and of how an impartial search should be structured. As you rightly say, the question of single non-renewable appointments should be very seriously considered, with adequate safeguards being built in to ensure that what proves to be a wrong choice can be dealt with.

In the end, it is the quality of the person to fulfil the identified role which is of supreme importance, with gender, regional origin and other criteria being subject to that quality assessment.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM HARPER,
Director,
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1.
July 25.

Have no fear

From Mr P. E. Crapnell

Sir, It may seem odd to find holy books in dentists' waiting rooms (letters, July 23, 25, 27). Conversely, on occasion they are not found where they should be.

Many years ago I became aware that it was the practice of one disorganised solicitor to administer oaths to the unsuspecting not on the New Testament but on a copy of Collins "Gem" Dictionary.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP E. CRAPNELL,
Knowle,
Brookley Grove,
Hutton Mount, Brentwood, Essex.
July 26.

From Mr John Harding

Sir, Mr Roger Cookson notes with dread that his dentist keeps a Bible in his waiting room.

Why dread? It is only reasonable that a dentist or any other medical should keep the maker's manual to hand.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARDING,
1 Jennings Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
July 24.

Insiders' recollections of Suez crisis

From Sir Brian Barber

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg's "insider view" of Suez 40 years on ("How Eden erred at Suez", July 25) strikes me as extraordinary, more for what it leaves out than for what it says.

We are apparently to think that the whole disastrous episode was attributable to understandable political misjudgments by Eden and Nasser.

Not a word about the fraudulent conspiracy with the French; nor about the intentional creation of a situation in which we would claim the right to intervene to stop what we had conspired to start; nor about the deliberate misrepresentation of the grounds for our attack on Egypt; nor about the lies to Parliament and to the British electorate and to the United Nations and to our allies; nor about the grubby way in which even most of our own diplomats were kept in the dark about what our ministers were up to—only a glancing reference to "secret collusion with Israel".

Such a selective memoir of these disgraceful events coming from one who, by his own account, was working for Eden at the time, is bound to raise an eyebrow.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN BARBER
(Colonial Office, 1957-64;
HM Diplomatic Service, 1965-94),
10 Melrose Road, SW18.
July 25.

From Sir Donald Logan

Sir, Your reviewer (Arts, July 25) of Radio 4's Suez 1956 correctly quotes "an official in Selwyn Lloyd's Foreign Office" (myself) as saying on the programme that it was British policy to free the canal "by negotiation, with war as a last resort". He comments: "That may have been the official version but the facts point in a different direction."

That comment, and the programme on which it was based, are wrong; my statement—based on observation at first hand—remains fully justified.

Nelson in Naples

From Mr George Taber

Sir, Nelson's meddling in Neapolitan affairs and his treachery on the surrender terms are nicely glossed over in Tom Pocock's article, "Nelson, not by halves" (July 23), on the call by Italian historians for Britain to apologise for the hanging of Commodore Francesco Caracciolo on June 29/30, 1799.

With disastrous results, Nelson had encouraged Ferdinand IV, King of the Two Sicilies, to launch an ill-fated land attack on the French garrison at Rome. When the defeated Ferdinand crept back in disguise he was hastily evacuated from Naples to Sicily, where he remained grouse shooting and out of touch.

Caracciolo, Ferdinand's most eminent naval officer, stayed behind at Naples—a man who had no love for the French, and had actually fought alongside Nelson in a British fleet against the French at Genoa in 1795. But, like many other enlightened aristocrats, he loathed Ferdinand and both for his unenlightened rule and his craven flight.

When the republicans finally surrendered, the terms agreed by the royalist leaders ensured all French and rebel troops safe conduct to France.

Nelson arrived on the scene and question of single non-renewable appointments should be very seriously considered, with adequate safeguards being built in to ensure that what proves to be a wrong choice can be dealt with.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE TABER,
Winstons Farm, Southbury,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.
July 23.

From Mr Alfred Latham-Koenig

Sir, Tom Pocock attributes the "uncharacteristic ruthlessness" of Nelson at Naples in 1799 principally to his

From a few weeks after the nationalisation, until 14 days before the resort to force, a massive negotiating process was sustained. It included a mission to Nasser drawn from five widely different countries led by the Australian Prime Minister. By the beginning of October the British Foreign Secretary was deeply engaged in negotiation at the United Nations with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, the French Minister and the Secretary-General.

Of course military planning proceeded in parallel from the start. It would have been folly to delay it until the need for force was established.

True, Eden may have held little hope of negotiation. But many of his colleagues, including the Foreign Secretary, were sincere in this. It was the report of the military that their plans, as developed, could not be applied after the autumn that made the French proposal for concerted action with Israel attractive and urgent to Eden, halting the negotiation and bringing about the "last resort".

Yours sincerely,
DONALD LOGAN
(Assistant Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, 1956-58),
6 Thurloe Street, SW7.
July 30.

From Mr Donald Bush

Sir, William Rees-Mogg surprisingly does not mention the most disastrous by-product of Eden's Suez adventure. At a time when Khrushchev was holding back his tanks outside Budapest, uncertain and fearful of the West's reaction to any aggressive move on his part, Eden's futile adventure was a heaven-sent signal that our priorities were elsewhere. The atrocity of Budapest followed.

Yours faithfully,
D. BUSH,
1 Court Drive,
Waddon, Croydon, Surrey.
July 25.

"disturbed state of mind", following recent wounds and his conflict with his superior, Lord Keith, etc.

I think Lord Holland, in his *Memoirs of the Whig Party*, is nearer the truth when he writes of Lady Hamilton's "baneful ascendancy" over Nelson's mind as the chief cause of his conduct at Naples. We know more over that King Ferdinand's wife, Queen Maria Carolina, who was a sister of Queen Marie Antoinette, had a visceral hatred of "Jacobins" and urged Lady Hamilton to use her great influence on Nelson to ensure that he showed no mercy to the Neapolitan republicans.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED LATHAM-KOENIG,
23 Nassington Road, NW3.
July 28.

From Lieutenant-Colonel

R. G. Winstanley (retd)

Sir, I permitted myself a wry smile on reading that Nelson has been branded a war criminal in Italy. During the 1960s, whilst I was living in Denmark and serving at a Nato headquarters there, I learned from my Danish friends that Nelson is regarded as a war criminal in Denmark, too. This is the result of his action at Copenhagen, in 1801, when, in disregard of his superior's orders, he continued the bombardment of the neutral Danish fleet.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. WINSTANLEY,
6 Ravenscourt Road,
Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent.
July 25.

From Mr Richard Benyon

Sir, If Italy wants an apology for Nelson's actions, will we get one for Caesar's?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BENYON,
The Lambdens,
Beenhams, Reading, Berkshire.
July 25.

Rape victims' distress

From the Director of Victim Support

Sir, Home Office research shows that only a small percentage of women who are raped feel able to report the crime to the police and give evidence in court.

Of those who do, many have described the cross examination in court as being a humiliating event during which they are forced to relive the trauma of the rape in distressing detail.

It is therefore an outrage that the Japanese student who was raped should be expected to endure 31 hours over 12 days in the witness box and be subjected to repetitive cross-examination by each of the six defendants' counsel ("Rape victim will not tell parents", July 23).

I urge the Bar Council to review this case and consider whether better practices should be introduced to ensure that victims in rape cases do not have to suffer such treatment in the future.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN REEVES,
Director,
Victim Support,
Cranmer House,
39 Brixton Road, SW9.
July 26.

Unbound glories of the ancient foot

From Mr John Leatham

Sir, Giles Coren is justified in being offended by the spectacle of most English feet on holiday ("Turned off by a summer of ugly feet", July 26). The bare human foot should be a beautiful element of our remarkable anatomy (and is the one with perhaps the most complex and wonderful of our bone structures).

Take a look at the feet of the 5th-century BC life-size bronze statue of the Charioteer in the museum at Delphi, Greece, described a while ago by an American woman journalist as "the sexiest pair of feet in Europe". Presumably she knew. Or look at the feet, whether nude or sandalled, of other figures carved or modelled in antiquity, or indeed in later centuries. They possess an unconstrained beauty, typical of natives of Mediterranean lands. The ugly human foot Mr Coren abhors is the product of our habit of confining growing feet in footwear too small and distorting. Our climate still dictates we do not go barefoot in all seasons, but our footwear and habits should allow for the uninhibited growth of our feet.

Indoors at most times and outdoors in clement season (and litter-free places) toddlers especially, but children and indeed adults, should go unshod. Their feet would then be a visual delight, as nature intended them to be, for both Mr Coren and other discerning beholders of the generality of English feet. Moreover, the possessors of such feet would enjoy both pedal comfort and personal satisfaction, albeit perhaps narcissistic.

Sandals whose design replicated any of the elegant and practical (no-buckles) models worn in antiquity would certainly not detract from, though they might not enhance, the natural beauty of the untrammelled human foot.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LEATHAM,
Planchais, Kilmorack,
Beaulieu, Inverness-shire.
July 26.

From Mr J. H. Wiberg

Sir, Big toes shorter than the next toe are not usually the result of injury. This was, in fact, an arrangement favoured by the classical sculptors.

Yours sincerely,
J. H. WIBERG,
11 Oakenbrow,
Sway, Lymington, Hampshire.
July 26.

Olympic failure

From Mr D. A. G. Simpson

Sir, I have long admired the dexterity with which you interpret news to discredit the Government and in particular John Major. In the light of the measures which Mr Major took last year to revitalise British sport, your front-page report today that the relatively poor showing of our team at the Olympics "is particularly embarrassing for the Prime Minister" involves such a contortion of reasoning that I fear you may have done yourself a permanent mischief.

Many would consider the Prime Minister should feel most satisfied that he has already taken steps to improve the situation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMPSON,
7 Wingfield Street, SE15.
July 31.

From Mr Edward W. Clark

Sir, Our nation's performance at the Olympics is mediocre. But does this matter?

Yes, it does. It matters because it provides a window onto the world. We are a member of G7 and yet achieve performances which scarcely match those of the Third World. Our pride is dented. Our international standing is dented.

Why? May I suggest three reasons: a Government that has shown chronic neglect of sport; local authorities that hate school sports and competition; and sports authorities that are amateur and shambolic.

This country needs an action plan fast if we are not to sink beneath the waves at Sydney.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD W. CLARK,
5 Fitzwilliam Road, SW4.
July 31.

Like nine pins?

From Mr Alwyn James

Sir, Would your readers share my difficulty in explaining to the visitor from Mars that the man we honour as the fastest hurdler on this planet was the runner in yesterday's 110 metres hurdles who knocked down eight of the ten he was trying to jump over?

Yours faithfully,
ALWYN JAMES,
2 West Werberside,
Peters Village, Edinburgh.
July 30.

£15m transfer

From Mr Trevor Austin

Sir, Goals to Newcastle?
Yours faithfully,
TREVOR AUSTIN,
The Old House, London End,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 31: Mr Justice Nelson was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

His Excellency Mr Vasilis Zafiroopoulos was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Hellenic Republic to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Zafiroopoulos was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Philip Astley (Director, Protocol, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) was present.

Sir Oliver Wright was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as King of Arms of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George and delivered up to Her Majesty the Insignia of Office.

Sir Ewen Ferguson was received by The Queen when Her Majesty handed to him the Insignia of Office upon his appointment as King of Arms of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

His Excellency Mr Alfred Dube and Mrs Jones-Dube were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon his retirement as Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to the Queen, and Receiver General, Duchy of Lancaster.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 31: The Duke of York this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Seattle, United States of America.

Captain Neil Blair RN and Mr Geoffrey Crawford were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK

July 31: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Royal Lancers, this afternoon received Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel A.I. Finlayson upon relinquishing command of the Regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel R.N. Werthim on assuming the command.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Alexandra will attend the golden jubilee Stewards' show at Waltons Sports Fields, Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, at 12.30.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard Wilson, landscape painter, Penegoes, Powys, 1714; Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, naturalist, Béziers, France, 1744; William Clark, explorer, Caroline County, Virginia, 1770; Francis Scott Key, poet, Carroll County, Maryland, 1779; Richard Henry Dana, novelist, Cambridge, Mass., 1815; Herman Melville, writer, New York, 1819; James Grant, novelist, Edinburgh, 1822.

DEATHS: Queen Anne, reigned 1702-14, London, 1714; Richard Savage, poet, Bristol, 1743; Elizabeth Inchbald, novelist, dramatist and actress, London, 1821; Robert Morrison, founder of Protestant missions in China, Canton, 1834; Israel Zangwill, writer, Zionist and philanthropist, London, 1926; Theodore Roethke, poet, Washington, 1963; Walter Ulbricht, chairman, Council of State, German Democratic Republic 1960-73, East Berlin, 1973.

Nelson defeated the French at the Battle of the Nile, 1798.
Slavery was abolished in the British Empire, 1834.
Germany declared war on Russia, 1914.
The Warsaw Rising began, 1944.

Luncheon

Carlton Club
Dr Brian Mahoney, Chairman of the Conservative Party, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club. Sir Brian Gosnell, Chairman of the Political Committee, presided. Sir Ronald Harcourt also spoke.

Birthdays today

Mr Lionel Bart, composer, 66; Mr Derek Birdall, graphic designer and typographer, 62; Miss Janet Gough, High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 56; Viscountess Harcourt, 80; Mr Frank Hauser, theatre director, 74; Dr David Jasper, former Principal, St Paul's School, Durham, 45; Sir Richard Lloyd Jones, civil servant, 63; Professor M S Losowsky, Professor of Medicine, 66; Major-General R.C. MacDonald, 85; Professor W.H. Morris-Jones, former director, Institute of Commonwealth

Durham University

The following have been promoted to professor:
Dr John Anstee (Biological Sciences)
Dr John Findlay (Psychology)
Dr Brian Huntley (Biological Sciences)
Dr Jeremy Huxton (Chemistry).

The following have been promoted to reader:
Dr Edward Glover (Physics)
Dr Neil Gouley (Geological Sciences)
Dr David Gregory-Smith (Engineering)
Dr Howard Harris (History)
Dr Andreas Holger Muehle (Philosophy)
Dr Paul Mansfield (Mathematics)
Dr Rosemary Stevenson (Psychology).

Deaths: 78 Professor B.C. Roberts, Emeritus Professor of Industrial Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, 70.
M Yves Saint Laurent, fashion designer, 60; Dr Robert Spink, MP, 48; the Right Rev Professor Stephen Sykes, Bishop of Ely, 57; Professor Laurie Taylor, sociologist, 60; Mr Robert Thomas, sculptor, 70; Mr John Tomkinson, MBE, 57; Mr C.E. Ward Thomas, chairman, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television Holdings, 73.



David and Hazel Gedge, who are celebrating 30 years as organist and assistant organist at Brecon Cathedral, in Wales, were at St Paul's Cathedral, London, yesterday with members of their cathedral choir. Mr and Mrs Gedge, who with the choir will be playing and singing at services in St Paul's all this week, are the longest serving organists in England and Wales and the only husband and wife team of organists. Some of the men in the choir have been singing with 57-year-old Mr Gedge since they were boy choristers 30 years ago.

Latest wills

Mr James Arthur Thomas Jewel Marsh, of London W8, Jimmy Jewel, the musical hall comedian and actor, best known for his double act with Ben Warriss, left estate valued at £555,769 net.
He wished to be cremated and his ashes taken to Juan les Pins in France and given to his children; and he left £5,000 to his son, Vincent, and £5,000 to his daughter, Paddy, and £5,000 to his son, Vincent, and £5,000 to his daughter, Paddy.

Mr Peter John Ellison Male, of Ascot, Berkshire, Ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1977-80, left estate valued at £1,074,486 net.

Other estates include (net before tax):
Mrs Freda Margaret Freeman, of Oadby, Leicestershire, £855,150
Sheila Gwendoline Harley, of Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk, £1,004,247.

Mrs Sadie Lorna Owens Morris, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, £914,123

Mr Ronald Thomas Smith Pemberton, of Edeleston, Lancashire, £858,193
Mr Thomas Phillips, of Haynes, Bedfordshire, £977,387
Mrs Alice Marion Potter, of Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, £1,003,209

Mr Michael John Scott, of Horsham, West Sussex, £1,160,474
Lady Constance Avara Weeks, of Chichester, West Sussex, £834,974

Archaeology

Mysterious glass may date from burning of pagan shrines

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A STRANGE glassy substance found at an ancient Egyptian city is thought to have resulted from Christian fanatics burning earlier shrines. Animal bones and teeth encased in the glass seem to have come from mummified offerings consumed in the conflagration.

Large masses of the glass were found at the site of ancient Mendes, a city in the Nile Delta some 110 km (70 miles) north of Cairo. Mendes was occupied from before 3000 BC until the Roman period, and although farming had encroached on the edges of the site, still covers an area of 1.5 square km.

The glassy material was found in a mound called Kom el-Adhera, "hill of bones", which lies outside the city wall and which seems to have been used as a cemetery in the Greco-Roman period.

These sections were prepared and examined under a microscope, and most of the bone was seen to be from mammals, with some bird remains; the animals were small, with no sign of cattle or horse remains.

The glassy matrix was a

silicate containing iron, potassium and aluminium, but the low ratio of iron to silica precluded an origin as metallurgical slag. The high potassium level relative to sodium also made an origin in glass-making unlikely.

There was no human bone present, so the substance did not come from cremation rituals, nor were the detected temperatures of burning high enough. The best parallel came from burned earthen and stone structures such as the "vitrified forts" of Scotland, and at Mendes, mud brick, indeed proved to be the source of the material.

"We believe that the slag is the result of the fusion of a mud brick structure which encapsulated animal bones and teeth," say the Canadian team who investigated the site.

Egyptian archaeologists have found amulets mixed with bones and horns of rams nearby, and suggested that they come from the burials of sacred animals. "Animal cults were always an important aspect of ancient Egyptian religion," they say. "There are

many sites in Egypt where the mummified remains of sacred cats, dogs, falcons, bulls, crocodiles, ibises, etc were buried in vast subterranean galleries. Preparation of the dead animals was as detailed as that of humans."

At Mendes, they believe, brickwork tunnels were built to hold the mummies, and in a fire would have acted as natural furnaces. The silica would come from the mud brick, the potassium and sodium from mummification.

The carefully prepared remains would not have been destroyed during the Pharaonic period, and "it is more likely that the slag represents the intentional destruction of cult burials, in either the Persian or Christian periods" the investigators say.

The Persians are unlikely perpetrators, because the animal remains would have been contaminated fire, which they held holy, but "the later rise of Christianity brought a prohibition of pagan rituals associated with vandalism of traditional Egyptian religious centres".

Source: *Journal of Archaeological Science* 23:485-492.

£10m worth of royal silver to be sold

By JOHN SHAW

EIGHT items of silver from three celebrated European royal collections worth almost £10 million are to be sold in New York later this year.

They belong to George Ortiz, a member of the super-rich Patino family. He lives in Geneva and the items were originally bought by his mother after the Second World War. The collection, one of the finest in private hands in the world, will be sold in Sotheby's in Manhattan in November.

The most spectacular piece is a lavishly-decorated tureen expected to make £1.53 million. The top is a lavish concoction made up of vegetables, shell fish, and game. Emerging from each end are finely modelled bears' heads. Its pair is in the Detroit Institute of Fine Art.

The tureen was made by Thomas Germain, the pre-eminent French 18th-century silversmith, and is thought to have been ordered by the Comte de Toulouse (1678-1737), a legitimised son of Louis XIV.

Most of the elaborate gold and silver services belonging to Louis XV were melted down in 1759.

Anything that remained was destroyed during the French Revolution 40 years later. The service was confiscated a total of three times by the Revolutionary authorities before it was eventually regained by the Comte's descendants on the restoration of the French monarchy in 1815.

The collection also includes two pairs of German candelabra from the Portuguese royal service and dishes by the same maker from the Russian imperial service. A pair of George II candelabra by George Wickes matching the pairs made by Germain is also in the Ortiz collection.

Wickes was silversmith to the Prince of Wales, and the candelabra were produced for the Earl of Kildare, later Duke of Leinster. The order still survives, and shows that they cost a substantial £154. The estimate now is £457,000.

Mr Ortiz is the grandson on his mother's side of Simon Patino, a Bolivian tin multimillionaire. The family have always collected works of art, and two years ago Mr Ortiz brought part of his collection for a three month exhibition at the Royal Academy in London. It was seen by a total of 96,442 people, part of an international tour of the exhibits which also visited museums in Moscow and Berlin.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.R. Charlton and Miss K.A. Lewsey
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Clive Charlton, of Timsbury, Bath, and Kate, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Lewsey, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr M.W. Corrie and Miss C.Z. Cardozo
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, only son of the late Mr Thomas Corrie and of Mrs Corrie, of Leighton Hall, near Shrewsbury, and Camilla, fourth daughter of Lieut. Colonel and Mrs Benedict Cardozo, of Macclesfield, Dorset.

Mr K.L. D'Amours and Mrs K.L. Brady
The engagement is announced between Kevin, son of Mr and Mrs Paul D'Amours, of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Brady, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.H. Mansfield and Miss C.J. Doyle
The engagement is announced between Marc, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Mansfield, of Hong Kong, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Doyle, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr N.O. Pasha and Miss S.M. Norris
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs N. Kamal Pasha, of Norfolk, and Sophie Mairéad, daughter of Mrs Bella Norris, of Perols, France and the late Mr David Joseph Norris.

Mr P.F. Rayner and Miss A.M.D. Gardner
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Rayner, of Leybourne, Kent, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Gardner, of Loughton, Essex.

Marriage

Mr B.D. Thornton and Miss E.J. Moss
The marriage took place on Friday, July 26, at Christ Church, Kensington, of Mr Benjamin Thornton, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Thornton, of Lydney, Gloucestershire, and Miss Emma Moss, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Moss, of Beeston, Nottingham.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Tina Cook, Tara Wheatley and Tilly Wheatley. Mr Giles Thornton was best man.

Appointments

The Very Rev (Arthur) Wesley Carr, Dean of Bristol, has been appointed to the Deanery of Westminster in succession to the Very Rev Michael Clement Orway Mayne who retires in December. Canon Nicholas Ayles Stillingfleet Bury, Vicar of St Peter-in-the-East and Rural Dean of Tipton (Canterbury), has been appointed to the Deanery of Gloucester in succession to the Very Rev Kenneth Neal Jennings on his resignation.

Retirement

His Honour Judge Paul Baker, QC, retired yesterday from the Circuit Bench on the South Eastern Circuit.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Jacqueline Kendall, Curate, Acton, Church Minshull, Worleston and Wetenhall: to be Curate, Helsby (Cheshire).
Canon Dr Martin Kitchen, Adviser, In-Service Training and Canon Residential, Southwark Cathedral: to be Co-ordinator of Training and Canon Residential, Southwark Cathedral (Southwark).
The Rev Peter Knight, Assistant Curate and Team Vicar designate in the Ecumenical Partnership and parish of West Swindon and The Lydiards: to be Team Vicar, same parish (Bristol).
The Rev Peter Mackrell, Curate, Hale and Ashley: to be Curate, Marple (Cheshire).
The Rev Janet McFarlane, Curate, Stafford (Lichfield): to be Chaplain and Minor Canon of Ely Cathedral (Ely).
The Rev Eric Massheder, Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Hartlepool: to be Vicar, St Paul, Hartlepool (Durham).

suspension of presentation having been lifted.
The Rev Colin Mansley, Priest-in-charge, St Michael and All Angels, Bartley Green (Birmingham): now to be Vicar of that parish, suspension of presentation having now been lifted.

The Rev Robin Morrison, Principal Social Responsibility Officer for the diocese of Derby: to be Team Vicar for Commerce and Economic Development, Southampton Team Ministry (Winchester).

The Rev Brian Nicholson, Vicar, St John's, Colchester (Chelmsford): to be Rector, Church Oakley Wootton St Lawrence (Winchester).

The Rev Arnel Osmonston, Director of Mission and Pastoral Studies, Ridley Hall, Cambridge (Ely): to be Field Officer, Training (Cheshire).
The Rev Philip Parker, Chaplain, Shipplake College, Henley-on-Thames (Oxford): to be Chaplain Milton Abbey School (Salisbury).

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TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
WALSH - To Bruce and Hilary, a son, Magnus Benedict, 20th July.

DEATHS
DAY - On July 26th 1996, to Ned and Jeffrey, a son, Samuel Joseph, a brother for David and Kathy.

DEATHS
DENNIS - On 27th July, to Louise and Toby, a son, James David, a brother for David and Kathy.

DEATHS
HARRISON - On 27th July, to his wife, a son, James Harrison, a brother for David and Kathy.

DEATHS
LOANE - On 14th July 1996, to his wife, a son, James Loane, a brother for David and Kathy.

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Gîte holiday firms merge after three-year slump

By STEVE KEENAN

THE end of a British love affair with rural cottage holidays in France has forced the merger of the two biggest operators in the sector. Brittany Ferries has taken over the UK operations of Gîtes de France. Together, the two companies will have more than 2,000 gîtes on offer.

The deal is described as a joint venture. But in reality, the London offices of Gîtes de France will be reduced to a shell after three disastrous years of trading. The company's sales fell from 100,000 customers in 1993 to an estimated

20,000 this year. Staff numbers have been reduced from 40 to 15 over the same period.

The news came as Britain's biggest operator, Thomson, this week confirmed it has scrapped its French Riviera self-catering and hotels programme for 1997 because of poor sales. While the Channel Tunnel and a ferry price war has encouraged short breaks to France, summer holiday sales are 23 per cent down. Self-catering is the worst hit at 40 per cent down.

Kingsland Holidays, which specialised in France, folded two months ago and several other self-

catering operators are in trouble. David Longden, operations director for Brittany Ferries, said: "Self-catering in France has been battered in the last couple of years and we need to bring it back into context."

Both companies have tried to improve the gîte product. All-in pricing was introduced in 1995 in some gîtes, scrapping heating supplements and forcing owners to provide linen and towels. But many owners refused to co-operate, and there has been little renovation.

One French tourism expert said: "They don't realise they have to move with the times. Some owners

provide linen and some, especially in the south of France, built pools — but a lot of gîtes have remained the way they were 20 years ago."

At its peak, Gîtes de France provided 21 per cent of all gîte business from Britain and was at the forefront of attempting change, holding seminars to inform gîte owners of the changing nature of the British market. The company tried to diversify into short breaks, B&B, activity holidays, theme parks and ski holidays. These ideas were shelved this year as the company again focused on regaining lost ground in the gîte market. But a

recent board meeting voted for the merger with Brittany Ferries. No money is involved.

Other operators to France agree that gîte appeal has been fading since Britain dropped out of the ERM in 1992 and sterling fell against the franc by 25 per cent. "Our experience over the past two years is that it is a very tough market," said Conrad Morris, general manager of EuroVillages. "The two-week self-catering holiday in France has fewer fans. Now people are taking one week or short-break holidays and staying in the north of France."

The top-end market for villas with pools in France or large houses capable of accommodating two or three families has remained strong. But Brittany Ferries says it will put resources into rejuvenating the gîte market, while cutting costs by merging sales teams, databases and booking systems.

It will move Gîtes de France operations to Plymouth and produce separate 1997 brochures for gîtes and holiday homes owned by Britons. The merger will give it a dominant share of the gîte market and help it to diversify away from ferry operations.

BA starts trials for ticketless flights

By DAVID CHURCHILL

SEVERAL passengers on flight BA2015 from Aberdeen at 6.45 this morning will be the first frequent travellers to use British Airways' ticketless travel system, which starts its "live" trials on the Aberdeen-Garwick Shuttle route.

The travellers will have arrived at the airport without any traditional airline ticket and simply used their credit cards to "swipe" through an automatic reader at the terminal. This will confirm their reservation, held in the airlines' computer system, and offer them the facility to change their seat location simply by touching the screen.

"We are the first airline in Europe to offer such an on-screen seat changing facility," says Gavin Halliday, BA's UK marketing distribution manager. "The screen displays 'real-time' seat availability and enables, for example, two colleagues to sit together."

Passengers are then automatically given a boarding pass and join the plane in the normal way. A similar "ticketless" machine is in operation at Gatwick for flights to Aberdeen. At present the self-service system is geared to passengers with hand luggage only: those with hold luggage can check in via the desk in the normal way.

The new system is aimed at frequent business travellers who may make reservations at the last minute or do not want to go through the hassle of having a ticket reissued if they change their flight.

For the present, bookings can only be made through BA Ticket Shops or by telephone and a credit card is needed to confirm the reservation. Passengers who are members of BA's Executive Club are also asked to register their membership number as an additional security check and to ensure that Air Miles and membership points are correctly allocated.

From November, BA will also accept ticketless reservations through Hogg Robinson and Portman Travel outlets. If the scheme proves a success, it will be rolled out on other UK routes early next year.

Visitors flock to taste life at court

RECREATING the past in royal palaces so visitors can experience court life as it was centuries ago is adding to their success, Tony Dave writes.

The best year yet, in both commercial and tourism terms, was reported yesterday by the agency responsible for Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace and the Tower of London, all of which now feature displays capturing the atmosphere of the past.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency reported a 9 per cent rise in commercial income to £28.4 million in the last financial year as the palaces welcomed more than four million tourists from 75 countries.

David Beeton, chief executive, said: "It is not our overriding purpose to increase visitor numbers but to give them a memorable experience."

Hampton Court attractions include the world's largest and oldest surviving kitchens, with real fires, real food and real staff in period costume, as well as the Privy Garden, restored to its design of 1700.

The agency is one-third of the way through work at Kensington Palace to show how the Royal Family lived and the court operated in the early 18th century and also has plans for the White Tower at the Tower of London following the move of some of its collection of armour to the new Royal Armouries museum in Leeds.

The agency required £4.2 million from the taxpayer last year, however, because the cost of maintaining and securing the properties exceeded commercial income, but the figure was much lower than in the past. However, the financial position means that tourists who have complained about the high cost of visiting the palaces — £7.50 a person on average — cannot expect cheaper entrance fees.

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PINKERTON'S EYE



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

LOW RISK

THE Eta separatist bombing campaign along the coastal regions of Spain is expected to continue. The United States is considered a low risk destination following recent incidents but passengers should expect at least an extra 30-minute wait at check-in counters. On July 26 six bystanders were wounded in a street shooting in San Francisco.

MODERATE RISK

On July 27 a raid on the Jakarta headquarters of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) triggered widespread rioting. The ousting of PDI President Megawati Sukarnoputri is likely to continue to cause unrest. Also in Indonesia a report claims that thousands of people, including foreigners, have been victimised by "criminal hypnosis" who induce them to hand over jewellery and money. August 24 marks the twelfth anniversary of the beginning of the PKK campaign in Turkey. This period has previously resulted in kidnapping and bombings. After three railway bomb incidents in as many days, rail travellers in Russia are advised to be cautious.

HIGH RISK

Bands of gunmen in Colombia are roving through small towns in Antioquia department killing peasants accused of ties with guerrillas. A series of unclaimed bombings plus recent threats to US concerns in the Pakistani Punjab province make it a high-risk area. On July 26 a police station in the central area of Lima, Peru, was car bombed.

EXTREME RISK

Algeria remains volatile following the killing of Djamei Zitouni, the former leader of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) who is believed responsible for last year's bombing campaign in France, an Air France hijacking and the murder of trappist monks. A more recent hijacking, this time an internal flight, ended without injury on July 24. The security situation in Burundi is in a state of flux after the Tutsi-led army installed a junta government on July 25, travel here is not advised. LTTE insurgents (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) have damaged hopes of peace in north and east Sri Lanka following military actions and the train bombing south of Colombo.

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Thomson to kill off last-ditch bargains

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

CUT-PRICE package holiday deals advertised at the last moment will have disappeared within the next three years, according to Britain's biggest tour operator.

Charles Newbold, managing director of Thomson, said this week that holidaymakers will have to learn that the earlier they book the lower the price, and vice versa.

"It will take two or three years to turn the industry around," he said. "But we will complete the job in 1998."

Thomson introduced "flexible pricing" last year in an effort to reduce the £86 million it cost the company in 1995 to dispose of 298,000 holidays still unsold weeks before the departure date.

Although the scheme — by which discounts are offered when the brochures first go on sale, rather than at the last minute — was not brought in until after Christmas, only 141,000 last-minute bargains have been sold this year, and next year Mr Newbold is confident of halving that number again.

"If people are chatting on their sunbed and discover that their neighbour has paid less for his holiday because he booked early, then it will catch on quickly," Mr Newbold said.

Brochures for summer 1997 go on sale today with prices about 3 per cent higher than this year. "But nobody who books now will pay that price," said Mr Newbold. "We guarantee to discount by between £20 and £100 per couple, depending on the cost of each holiday."

Computers will be checked each day and when holidays are selling well at the dis-

counted price travel agents will be told to charge the full brochure price again.

According to Thomson's detailed research this should help to stimulate the market and reduce losses.

Thomson delayed the launch of its brochures for 1997 from the beginning of last month, when most of its rivals put them into travel agents. "I said that was a daft thing to do and so it has proved," said Mr Newbold.

So far only around 200,000 summer 1997 holidays in total have been booked, and Thomson expects to sell more than that itself by this weekend.

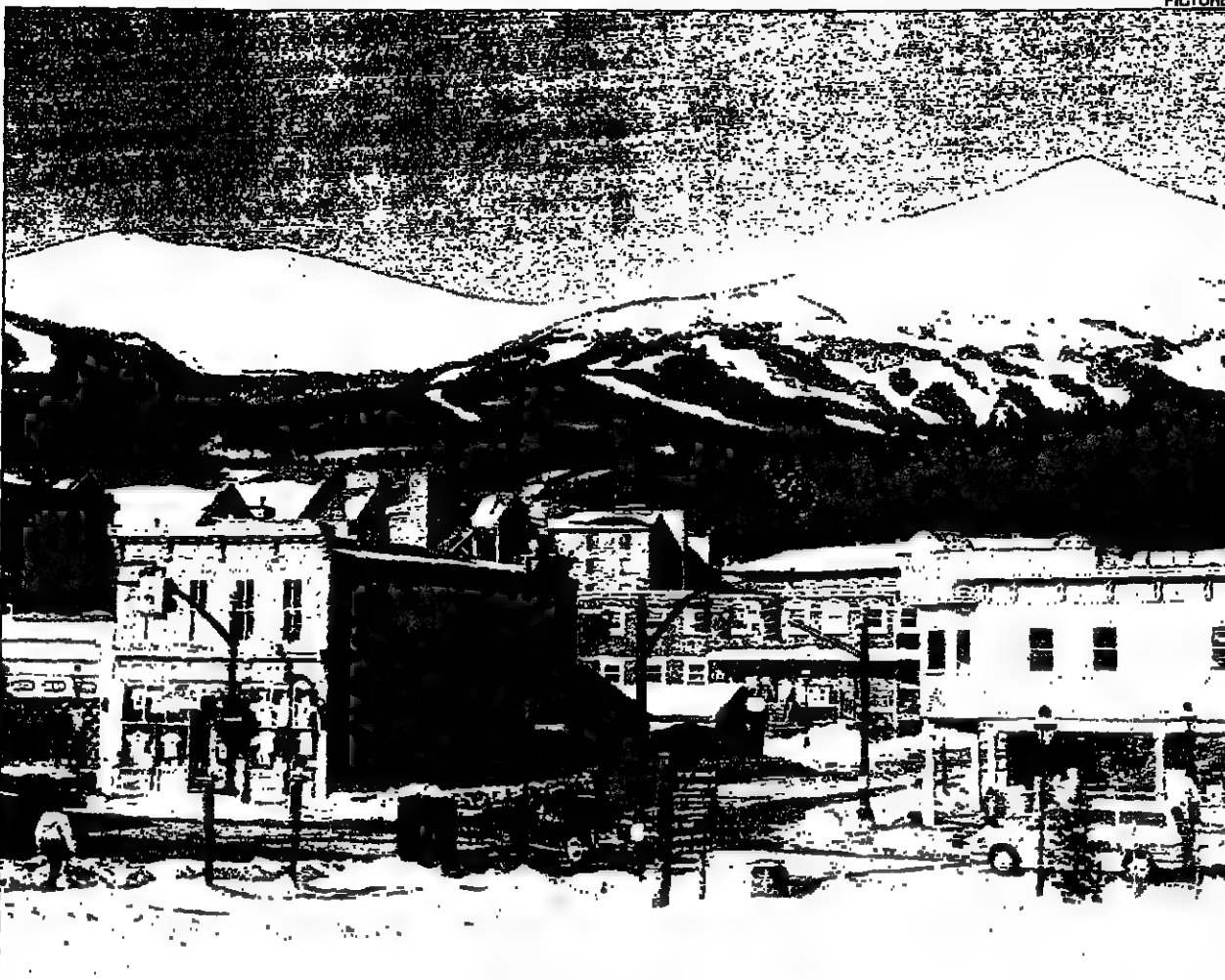
The sale of Thomson holidays to Cuba has been halted because of fears that senior directors and executives could be barred from entering America or taken to court for "trafficking".

A controversial US Bill known as the Helms-Burton law is designed to prevent foreign companies from trading with Cuba, and especially from dealing in assets originally confiscated by the Communists.

Although Cuba appears in the new summer 1997 brochure it will not be on sale until talks have been held at government level to ensure that executives will not be held liable under the US law.

Sunworld, First Choice and Cosmos are continuing to send holidaymakers to Cuba and believe that by using only modern hotels they cannot be accused of "trafficking".

Croatia could become a popular holiday destination again next year. Thomson is offering 25,000 holidays in the northern part of the country after being assured that it was perfectly safe.



Once the merger is complete, visitors to Breckenridge will be able to ski at both resorts using the one ticket

Resorts link to form US ski giant

By GRAHAM DUFFILL

TWO of America's largest ski resorts, Vail and Breckenridge in Colorado, are merging to produce a huge ski conglomerate.

Breckenridge was the most popular US resort for British skiers last season and the prospect of skiing two of the world's biggest resorts on one ticket will be an even bigger pull.

Although the resorts' slopes are not linked, six ski areas within a 40-mile stretch of Interstate 70 will now be owned by one company and a joint lift ticket with free shuttle bus connections seems a certainty. Andy Daley, president of Vail Associates, says that is unlikely to happen before the 1997-98 season and will require the permission of the trade commission.

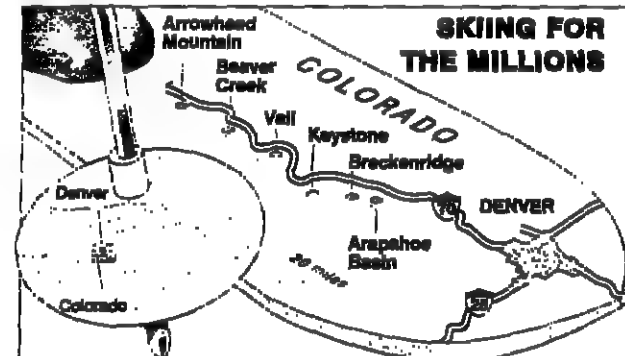
Andy Perrin, Crystal holiday marketing director, says: "It's brilliant news and there will be a lot of pressure on the owners to get over the

problems of putting the resorts on the same lift ticket and have it ready for this season."

"British skiing holidays to the States average 12 days and most skiers stay in Breckenridge and ski for a day in Vail. Now they will be able to travel just 40 minutes down the road and ski what have been the two most popular resorts on one ticket. Lots of people hire cars and they will be able to zip around at will."

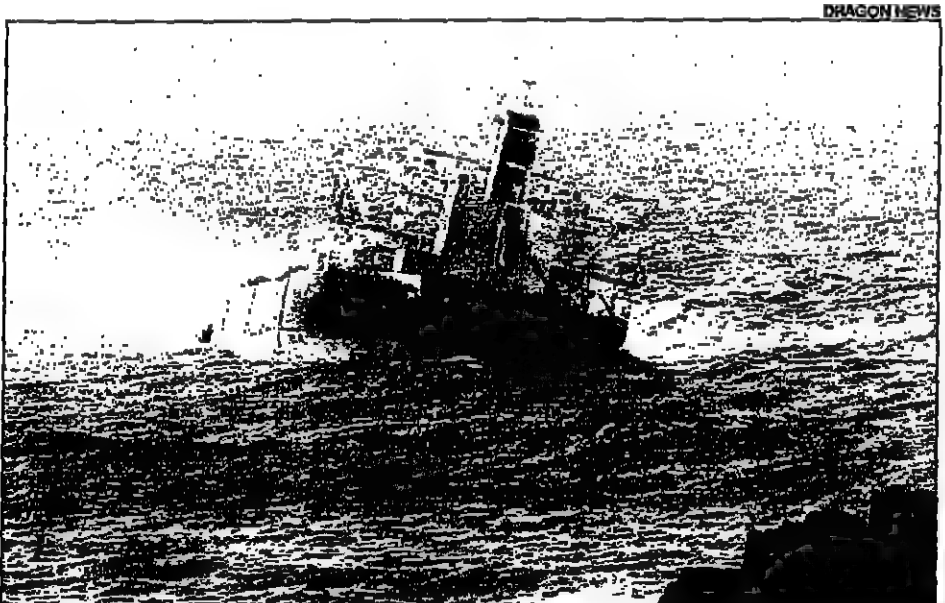
For the skier who is not put off by being in a huge Florida-style theme park it will be the ultimate ski area. Vail is already so large that the town stretches along three exits from the interstate, has a collection of multi-storey car parks, an outer and inner ring road and 1,100 ski instructors.

Breckenridge's skiing occupies half the area but is still across four linked mountains. The smaller resorts of Beaver



Creek, known for its luxurious homes, Keystone, which has night skiing until 11pm and Arapahoe Basin, with skiing at more than 12,000 feet allowing it to stay open until June, would be included in the package.

The new company, Vail Resorts, estimates it will sell five million skier-days a year and generate an annual turnover of \$300 million. Around 3,000 British skiers went with tour operators to Brecken-



Sea Empress spillage: the clean-up was a success story for the Welsh tourist industry

Wales set for another boom

By TONY DAWE

WALES enjoyed its most successful season for tourism last year and the signs are that 1996 will bring another boom despite the threat posed by the Sea Empress oil spillage, says the Wales Tourist Board's annual report published today.

The total number of overnight trips to Wales by people from other parts of Britain increased last year to 10.4 million while the principal attraction 735,000 overseas visitors, 45,000 up on 1994.

"The fine summer weather, a fall in the value of sterling and continued economic uncertainty would appear to have contributed to a strong performance from traditional holiday markets during 1995," the report says.

Tony Lewis, the former international cricketer and

television presenter who chairs the tourist board, welcomes the "clear signs for optimism in Wales" and says the board estimates that tourism contributes at least £1.6 billion to the Welsh economy with nearly one in ten of Welsh working people engaged in the business.

He says, however, that the oil spillage which threatened miles of beautiful coastline earlier this year "served as a vivid reminder of the dynamic forces to which tourism can be subjected". He adds: "The reassurance campaign which coincided with the successful clean-up of the affected beaches was an excellent example of an integrated effort by the industry itself, local authorities and tourism bodies."

The report also notes a reversal in the trend of people

preferring short breaks with a significant increase in the numbers staying for a longer holiday. Occupancy rates in Welsh hotels were better than 1994 for every month of the year and caravan parks also reported an increase in visitors. Self-catering properties fared less well, partly because of "uncompetitive pricing and inflexible letting arrangements".

The board is allocating £8.7 million of government funds over five years to support investment in six resort areas and seven historic towns with the aim of boosting tourism and creating up to 2,000 new jobs. The areas include the Mumbles and Gower Peninsula, the Llyn Peninsula, Aberystwyth and Llandudno, Caerleon, Caernarfon, Brecon and Machynlleth.

Dubai steps up tourist drive

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

EMIRATES, the award-winning airline based in Dubai, has increased seat capacity for its flights into Heathrow and Gatwick with the introduction of two Boeing 777s.

The arrival of the 303-seater aircraft is a measure of Dubai's leap towards a tourist future. The airline, which started with only two aircraft a decade ago, took delivery of its second £125 million Boeing 777 last month. Another five of the

world's most advanced aircraft will join the Emirates fleet in the next year to enhance its reputation as the world's best long-haul airline.

Only 30 years after the discovery of oil transformed Dubai from little more than a Bedouin trading post, the emirate has gone into top gear to meet an enforced second change in its image. Sources indicate that the oil which has allowed Dubai to thrive may

run out in little more than five years and not the 30 years that was previously supposed.

As the oil revenues dry up there are plans for tourism, which accounts for 15 per cent of its income, to more than double by the year 2000.

Huge investments are being poured in to help the country to diversify in readiness. A spokesman for the emirate's Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board said: "Dubai aims to become the Hong Kong of the Middle East. We have not been told when the oil reserves will dry up but it will be pretty soon. Tourism is still very young here and it has become a major project for us."

Holidaymakers from Britain to Dubai have increased by more than 45 per cent since 1993 to 35,000 last year. And this year British tour operators are reporting a 20 per cent rise over 1995.

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EXPIRES 15/08

Safety: the vital questions

The official inquiry into how both engines on a British Midland jet almost ran out of oil has exposed a weak link in air safety which airlines and the Civil Aviation Authority cannot ignore.

Anyone who has flown in a commercial aircraft has sometimes wondered about the mechanical integrity of the aircraft, but has been reassured by the calm voice of Captain "Speaking". He or she wants to get there safely — just as much as the passengers.

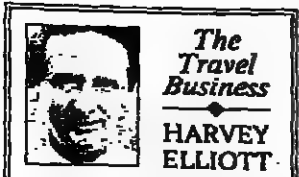
But little has been heard, until now, of the equally important role played by maintenance engineers who do not fly in the aircraft for which they are responsible, yet who are often under the most horrendous pressures.

Within the past 18 months there have been reports of aircraft taking off with their spoilers flapping in the air-stream, of jets being unable to turn left because control surfaces had been disconnected, of a pilot being backed out of the cockpit window because the wrong size rivets had been fitted, emergency chutes failing on a plane, a jumbo jet squatting on its tail because restraining pins had not been fitted to the undercarriage... the list goes on.

The common factor is maintenance.

When we board an aircraft we expect it to have been serviced and be fit to fly. Yet, according to last week's devastating report by air accident investigators, it has often been worked on by people who are tired because they are on duty overnight when their bodies and minds are at their most vulnerable. Often they are massively under-staffed, yet constantly being pressured to complete every job which is thrown at them on time so that the airline can keep to its schedules. So they take short cuts.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) report is scathing in its criticism both of British Midland (which was



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

fined £150,000 for "crass negligence") and especially of the Civil Aviation Authority, which appears to have abdicated much of its responsibility for ensuring that standards are maintained.

The time has come for a review of the whole system of aircraft maintenance in Britain when the following questions can be properly addressed:

□ Should maintenance engineers be given a higher salary and status? Pilots are paid up to £100,000 a year and are regarded in awe by the travelling public. Maintenance engineers are paid between £22,000 and £25,000 a year and totally ignored.

□ How can the training and working practices of maintenance engineers be improved? □ Should the CAA recruit more, better-qualified inspectors to take day-to-day responsibility for policing maintenance work rather than devolve it to the airlines as its policy now dictates?

□ What can be done to improve the shift system and the working environment in hangars at night?

□ Are the three levels of check — the airlines', the CAA's and the flight crew's — sufficient?

These are just a few of the many vital questions which the CAA, the airlines and the Department of Transport must consider urgently if an accident is to be avoided, whatever the cost.

As the report says: "Serious incidents are frequently discovered, all too late, to have predicted catastrophic accidents."

Hopefully the near disaster of British Midland Boeing 737 G-OBMM will trigger some urgent action. To repeat the old — but never to be forgotten — adage: "If you think safety is expensive, try having an accident."

Bargains of the week — from fly-drive trips in the French Alps to sailing in Sardinia

HOTELS

PEMBRIDGE Court Hotel, a 19th-century townhouse hotel in West London close to the Portobello Road antique market, has a summer rate of £130 a night instead of the normal rate of £155 for a double room including full English breakfast. The offer covers any Friday to Monday night inclusive before the end of August. Details: 0171-229 9977.

MILLENNIUM and Cophorne Hotels has a special rate of £75 per person for two nights until the end of August at its four-star hotels outside London. The offer includes breakfast and dinner and can be extended for a further night by paying an extra £30 per person. Details, quoting PB offer: 0800-414741.

MORE than 700 hotels and guesthouses in Austria are taking part in a special autumn *Familienherbst* promotion, from September 1 until November 3, which offers free and separate bedrooms for children under 12 staying with parents. Details: 0171-629 0461.

CHARINGWORTH Manor Hotel in the Cotswolds has linked up with a local gliding club to provide learn to fly weekend breaks. Price is from £240 per person, including accommodation, dinner and instruction. Details: 01386 593555.

THE five Sol Inn hotels in Germany have a special rate until the end of August of DM95 (just over £40) per night for a double room. Children under 12 stay free. Details: 0800 282730.

FORTE'S 78 Posthouse hotels are offering a free weekend night, to be redeemed any time before December 22, for guests staying any two weekend nights before September 5. Details "three-for-two" offer: 0800 404040.

ETTINGTON Park near Stratford-upon-Avon is offering a free bottle of house wine on arrival along with tickets to nearby Warwick Castle for guests staying before the end of August. Price per person for two nights between Sunday and Thursday is £175, including dinner, rising to £195 over the weekend. Details: 01829 450123.

STAY in two of Jamaica's top hotels, Strawberry Hill and Jamaica Inn, as part of the "room with two views" package available until December 15 from Island Outpost. Price is \$1,215 per couple (about £810) for four nights, including transfers and a tour of the island. Details: 0800 614790.

THE 260-strong Golden Tulip Hotels worldwide chain, including the Chelsea hotel in London, has a summer promotion until the end of August at rates starting at £33 per person per night. Details: 0800 951000.

A 10 PER cent shopping discount at Saks Fifth Avenue is available to guests staying at the New York Palace Hotel at the summer rate of US\$199 (about £128) per room per night until September 4. Details through Leading Hotels of the World: 0800 181123.



Join the sailing set in Sardinia for a week from August 10 with Sunworld (see right)

FERRIES

P&O European Ferries has introduced shortbreak fares for the summer. A two-day return on Dover-Calais or Portsmouth-Le Havre/Cherbourg costs £45, a four-day return £69 and eight days, £99. Fares, valid until September 15, apply to a car and up to five passengers. There is a £10 supplement for Saturday travel. Details: 0990 980980.

SALLY Ferries is cutting fares through Ferryshop, with £40 five-day returns (bookable within ten days of travel) and standard returns from £71 on its Ramsgate routes to Dunkirk and Ostend. Details: 0990 706050.

IRISH Ferries has knocked one-third off two-day fares on its Holyhead-Dublin route, now costing £206 for a car and up to five passengers for travel by September 8. A standard one-way fare is £154. The one-way fare on Pembroke-Rosslare is £159 or £212 for a two-day return. Details: 0345 171717.

EUROSTAR has introduced a £49 daytrip fare on its passenger train service from Ashford to Paris, Lille, Brussels or Calais. The fare is available until September 1 and does not have to be booked in advance. Details: 0345 881881.

STENA Line has launched its ski-drive product for the winter, with lead-in prices of £39 for a ferry crossing and a week's self-catering in the French Alps, based on eight people in one vehicle. A £50 discount is offered on holidays booked by September 30. Details: 0990 747474.

FLIGHTS

TO LAUNCH its new route from London City Airport on August 19, Air UK is offering one of the cheapest-ever fares to Amsterdam. It is charging just £49 (with no Saturday night stay restriction) for return flights taken before September 8. Details: 0345 666777.

AIR INDIA sales agent Welcome Travel has special first, business and economy class fares between Heathrow and Toronto. First class is priced at £948, business class £583 and economy £395. Details: 0171-439 3627.

IF YOU are in Munich and need to travel to Mönchengladbach (near Düsseldorf) or Barcelona, budget airline Debonair will fly you between these cities for just £45 or £70 respectively. Details: 0800 046200.

BRITISH Airways' latest series of world offers include Bologna for £210, Bordeaux £149, Milan £222 and Montpellier £139. Book before August 7. Details: 0345 222111.

LUFTHANSA has low summer fares to Germany and selected continental destinations. Cologne and Düsseldorf, for example, cost £86 while Leipzig is priced at £141, Frankfurt £118 and Stuttgart £121. Details: 0345 737747.

SABENA has extended its business bonus fares to include travel from Heathrow and London City. A typical saving would be £108 for a flight between London and Turin (£360 as against £468). Details: 0181-780 1444.

HOLIDAYS

SAILING and windsurfing are included in holidays in Cannigione, Sardinia, on offer from Sunworld Sailing for a week from August 10. The price of £571 a person is based on four people sharing a two-bedroom apartment with return flights. Details: 01273 626284.

MAJORCA for a fortnight's Airtours self-catering holiday with a flight from Manchester on Saturday is available for £399 a person from Co-op Travelcare. Details: 0161-827 1030.

APARTMENTS in Umbria and Tuscany for a week from August 10 and 17 are available from Crusader Travel with prices from £288 for accommodation for four people in two bedrooms. Flights extra. Details: 0181-744 0474.

DISNEYLAND PARIS by coach with two nights' hotel accommodation and a day's entrance to the park for £135 for adults and £49 for children under 11 is on offer from Leger with departures from 300 pick-up points in England and Wales on August 18. Details: 01709 830839.

JERSEY for a week from August 18 or 25 for £215 a person, saving up to £139, is on offer from Modern Hotels. The price includes return ferry crossings from Weymouth, half-board accommodation and entertainment. Holidays by air available at a supplement. Details: 01534 59529.

FLY-DRIVE holidays to the *Queyras* regional park in the French Alps are being introduced by Intravel for three weeks from August 25 with prices starting from £249 a person in a party of four, including Heathrow-Lyon flights, car hire and a week's self-catering accommodation. Details: 01653 628802.

LATE summer and autumn self-catering holidays in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and New Zealand are available from Individual Travellers from £154 to £400 per person per week including travel arrangements. Details: 01798 869433.

TENERIFE for £299 a person for a fortnight's self-catering holiday with a flight from Gatwick on August 27 is on offer from Cosmos. Details: 0161-480 5799.

DUBAI for six nights for £427 a person is on offer from Travel Warehouse with return flights on Emirates from Gatwick and accommodation at the Golden Sands Apartments. Details: 0171-414 8808.

SAVINGS of £70 a person are available on a 15-day Kumuka safari leaving Nairobi on August 31 for the Rift Valley, Uganda and Zaire. The new price of £435 includes the services of a support crew, three meals a day and various excursions. Flights extra. Details: 0171-937 8855.

EGYPTIAN holidays in September are on offer from Kuoni with a week in Luxor starting from £275 a person and a fortnight combining Luxor with Sharm el Sheikh, the beach resort, from £399. Departures between September 10 and October 1. Details: 01306 743000.

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NEWS

£400,000 bill for Botham and Lamb

■ Ian Botham and Allan Lamb were last night facing a bill of up to £400,000 after losing their libel case against Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain.

The two former England stars said they were astonished by the jury's verdict on their claim that Imran called them cheats and racists. But both insisted that they had no regrets in bringing the case. "How can one regret it? I fought for my dignity and honesty," Botham said. Pages 1, 4

Howard ready to bring in gun ban

■ Michael Howard is expected to override Conservative MPs' objections and ban private ownership of handguns if the Dunblane inquiry says he should. The Home Secretary will introduce a Bill for new controls if Lord Cullen puts forward proposals that require legislation. Pages 1, 2

Yachtsman thwarted

Ben Ainslie, Britain's youngest-ever Olympic sailor, saw his gold medal hopes in the Laser class dashed when he and his rival were disqualified. Page 1

Blair loses support

Tony Blair's personal approval rating has fallen to its lowest level since he was elected Labour leader, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. Page 1

Causing a stink?

The stinking lily of Kew Gardens finally came into flower, and proved a red herring. Its allegedly awful fishy smell was noticeable only by its almost complete absence. Page 1

Siddons killer jailed

A family celebrated an 18-year campaign for justice, as a teenager's killer was jailed for life. Michael Brookes showed no emotion as he was convicted of killing Lynn Siddons. Page 3

Moynihan boys lose

The "colourful and irreparable" life of the late Baron Moynihan of Leeds was laid bare in judgment that cleared the way for his half-brother, Colin Moynihan, to inherit the title. Page 5

SAS author held

A bestselling author who says he was part of an SAS death squad in Northern Ireland in the 1970s was arrested by the RUC and held for questioning. Page 5

First, catch your grey squirrel

■ Not all the blame for the demise of the red squirrel, which is the focus of a new preservation campaign, can be laid at the door of Mr Brocklehurst, who released a pair of North American grey squirrels into his garden in 1876. In 1902 a further 100 were released in Surrey. Why they were brought in is not clear, but they became popular as food. Page 9

Villiers victory

Janie Villiers, the blind daughter of a renowned car engineer, won damages of £160,000 against Rolls-Royce in a legal action for breach of contract begun by her late father. Page 6

Regulator defended

The National Heritage Secretary was standing by Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, after a Commons committee accused him of "serious errors of judgment". Page 8

Autumn strikes likely

French union leaders and government ministers will head off on holiday this month in the knowledge that the stage is set for a renewed unrest when they return in September. Page 10

Township battles

Youths battled with police and attacked journalists in Tembisa township, northeast of Johannesburg, as they vented their anger over a railway station stampede that left 15 dead. Page 11

Buchanan's threat

Pat Buchanan, the biggest thorn in Bob Dole's side, all but threatened to quit the Republican Party if his conservative agenda continues to be ignored. Page 12

Atlanta search

FBI agents searched the house of Richard Jewell, the security guard being investigated for the Atlanta bombing. Page 13



Sixty Zulus, who are all members of the South African police service, go through a dress rehearsal for the Edinburgh Tattoo at the city's Redford Barracks. The tattoo is due to open to the public at Edinburgh castle tomorrow

BUSINESS

Jobs: Royal & Sun Alliance, Britain's biggest insurance company, announced the closure of 94 branches and the loss of 1,300 jobs. Page 23

Pharmaceuticals: Glaxo Wellcome plans to shed 7,000 jobs and to make savings of £700 million a year by the end of 1998. Page 23

Banking: Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, has slapped an injunction on one of its high fliers in an apparent attempt to prevent the departure of key clients and staff. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 34.7 points to close at 3703.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.9 to 84.6 after a fall from \$1.5560 to \$1.5533 and from DM2.988 to DM2.910. Page 26

SPORT

Olympic Games: Britain's tally of medals was swelled by a bronze from Max Sciandri in the cycling road race and by Tim Henman and Neil Broad who guaranteed at least a silver by reaching the final of the men's tennis doubles. Ben Ainslie lost his chance of a gold in the Laser class sailing when he was disqualified. Pages 41, 44

Crickets: Lancashire and Yorkshire, who met in the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup, were paired together in the draw for the same stage of the NatWest Trophy. Surrey play Essex in the other match. Page 38

Motor racing: Ferrari are expected to resign the Ulsterman Eddie Irvine as team-mate to Michael Schumacher. Page 39

ARTS

Films of the week: There is plenty of surreal fantasy in the big screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*; but the world's most famous dolphin looks pretty limp in the Hollywood remake *Flipper*. Page 31

Video: *La Cérémonie*, Claude Chabrol's darkly comic version of Ruth Rendell's *Judgement in Stone*, is on video, as is the futuristic cyberfilm *Johnny Mnemonic*, with Keanu Reeves. Page 32

Summer snapshots: Day Four of our top tourist attractions takes a walk through the historic stones of Westminster Abbey. Page 33

Wedded bliss? J.B. Priestley's Yorkshire farce, *When We Are Married*, receives a new staging at Chichester. Page 33

FEATURES

Semi-socialist: Paul Hamlyn is not a member of the Labour Party, but he has donated £500,000 to Tony Blair's campaign. Page 20

Life after 'Chelle': Nine months after leaving *EastEnders*, Susan Tully has almost left the character of Michelle behind and is carving out a new life. Page 15

BODY AND MIND

Dr Thomas Stutzdorf explains why liver transplants excite little interest now, and looks at a new treatment for motor neurone disease. Page 14

TRAVEL NEWS

About turn: Package holiday giant Thomson plans to end discounts for last-minute holiday bookings in the next three years. Page 20

BOOKS

Stories and storytellers: Michael Ignatieff on Vladimir Nabokov; John Grigg on Britain's wartime spirit; Felipe Fernandez-Armesto on Europe's past; Lynne Truss on Lewis Carroll. Pages 34, 35

THE PAPERS

Everyone condemns terrorism. But one man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter. At least the G7 nations, plus Russia, had the same objectives in Paris, even though they weren't unanimous about the methods of fighting terrorism. —*Süddeutsche Zeitung*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES
■ **POP**
David Sinclair on the debut solo single from former Take That lead singer Robbie Williams, and other new releases

■ **INTERVIEW**
Meets Professor Jack Scarisbrick, chairman of the anti-abortion group Life

TV LISTINGS

Preview: More than 900 Jews fled Nazi Germany but the New World turned them back: *Secret History* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard on upper-class women who kill for a hobby. Page 45

OPINION

Lack of vision

Peter Davis, the Director-General of Ofst, is not up to his job. Mrs Bottomley, who appointed him, should act accordingly. Page 17

Crimes of conscience

The Liverpool four admit their vandalism, and the court that allows them to escape the consequences of their actions does us all a disservice. Page 17

Pig-hoo-o-o-o-ey!

British pigs would have a flying start over the squat Vietnamese pigs from the Pacific nations who are so mortifyingly ahead of us at Atlanta. Page 17

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The personal problems of the Royal Family have distracted attention from the more profound constitutional issues which would have to be faced whatever the royal personalities were. Page 16

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Lord Cullen's report on the Dunblane massacre will be the only one that ultimately matters. He is unlikely to propose a blanket ban on private gun ownership. Page 16

ROGER SCRUTON

Oxford has created 162 new professors, who will have the title but no chairs, so that only those who are already able to tell the difference between first-rate and second-rate scholarship will know which Oxford professor truly deserves the title. Page 16

JOHN BRYANT

The masters of the Olympic Games can stage manage much, but unforgettable moments are never minted so easily. They often have little to do with winning. Page 42

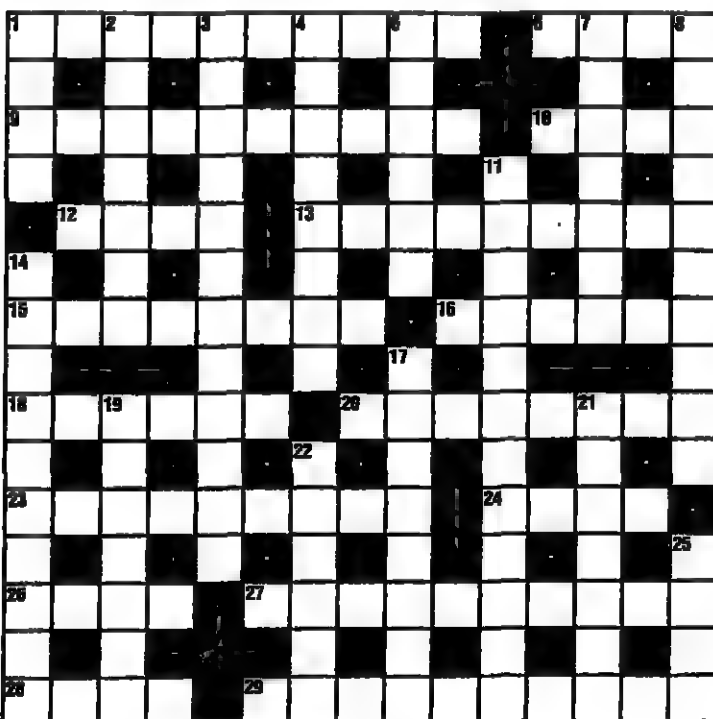
OBITUARIES

Claudette Colbert, actress: Jed Johnson, interior designer: Dame Jane Drew, architect. Page 19

LETTERS

Choosing a UN Secretary-General: Suez: the beauty of feet: Nelson in Naples: the distress of rape victims: lack of success in Atlanta: Shearer's transfer. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,235



ACROSS

- 1 Representative part for clarinet, say (10).
- 6 Experts using approach that avoids repetitions (4).
- 9 Would-be performer idle in class? (10).
- 12 Subscribe to make a gesture (4).
- 16 Like metallic thread twisted round one (4).
- 13 A couple of fish for an infant (9).
- 15 Plot in Greene novel (8).
- 16 Trying to save covert that's fallen in river (6).
- 18 Error playing music - wrong note (6).
- 20 Draws fish at seaside (8).
- 23 From what we hear, appropriate measure for balance (9).
- 24 Pawn made from piece of chestnut, say (4).

DOWN

- 26 Move cautiously within church (4).
- 27 Approach helping to create reasonable behaviour (10).
- 28 Give attention to Liberal, such as Rosebery (4).
- 29 Simple way in which to enjoy affluence (4,6).
- 1 Garden visitor very enthusiastic about yew, we hear (4).
- 2 Cancelling the opening (7).
- 3 Novelist with books some gardeners like (5,7).
- 4 Future partner managed to get home first (8).
- 5 Scared bats in trees (6).
- 7 Tightly closing, say, this top (7).
- 8 Eagles seen flying from part of Africa (10).
- 11 Frank talking between couple in suit? (5,2-5).
- 14 A letter that's not authoritarian (10).
- 17 Fighting men betrayed, that is, over transport (8).
- 19 Piece of canvas for painter (7).
- 21 Cunning I have shown to create records (7).
- 22 Temple where old man conceals an object of worship (6).
- 25 Bird in difficulty (4).

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Devon & Cornwall	7-10
West Midlands	7-10
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Yorkshire	7-10
East of England	7-10
South East	7-10
Wales	7-10
Scotland	7-10
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North East	7-10
Yorkshire	7-10
East of England	7-10
South East	7-10
Wales	7-10
Scotland	7-10
Ireland	7-10

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Region	Forecast
London & SE	7-10
West Midlands	7-10
North Midlands	7-10
North East	7-10
Yorkshire	7-10
East of England	7-10
South East	7-10
Wales	7-10
Scotland	7-10
Ireland	7-10

FORECAST

General: All areas will have a mixture of sunshine and showers.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central & E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: bright or sunny then cloudier with bands of showers, clearing again later. Wind westerly, light. Warm, max 23C (73F).

E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: bright with sunny periods, isolated showers. Winds southwest, light. Max 21C (70F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central & E Scotland: showers and some sun. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Warm, max 21C (70F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
London	15	SW	100	0.0
West Midlands	14	SW	100	0.0
North Midlands	13	SW	100	0.0
North East	12	SW	100	0.0
Yorkshire	11	SW	100	0.0
East of England	10	SW	100	0.0
South East	9	SW	100	0.0
Wales	8	SW	100	0.0
Scotland	7	SW	100	0.0
Ireland	6	SW	100	0.0

ABROAD

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Madrid	27	SE	100	0.0
Paris	26	SE	100	0.0
Rome	25	SE	100	0.0
Amsterdam	24	SE	100	0.0
Brussels	23	SE	100	0.0
Frankfurt	22	SE	100	0.0
Berlin	21	SE	100	0.0
Moscow	20	SE	100	0.0
Beijing	19	SE	100	0.0
Tokyo	18	SE	100	0.0
Sydney	17	SE	100	0.0
Melbourne	16	SE	100	0.0
Auckland	15	SE	100	0.0

NOON TODAY

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
London	15	SW	100	0.0
West Midlands	14	SW	100	0.0
North Midlands	13	SW	100	0.0
North East	12	SW	100	0.0
Yorkshire	11	SW	100	0.0
East of England	10	SW	100	0.0
South East	9	SW	100	0.0
Wales	8	SW	100	0.0
Scotland	7	SW	100	0.0
Ireland	6	SW	100	0.0

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Region	High	Low
London	15	8
West Midlands	14	7
North Midlands	13	6
North East	12	5
Yorkshire	11	4
East of England	10	3
South East	9	2
Wales	8	1
Scotland	7	0
Ireland	6	-1

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Region	High	Low
London	15	8
West Midlands	14	7
North Midlands	13	6
North East	12	5
Yorkshire	11	4
East of England	10	3
South East	9	2
Wales	8	1
Scotland	7	0
Ireland	6	-1

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Region	High	Low
London	15	8
West Midlands	14	7
North Midlands	13	6
North East	12	5
Yorkshire	11	4
East of England	10	3
South East	9	2
Wales	8	1
Scotland	7	0
Ireland	6	-1

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Region	High	Low
London	15	8
West Midlands	14	7
North Midlands	13	6
North East	12	5
Yorkshire	11	4
East of England	10	3
South East	9	2
Wales	8	1
Scotland	7	0
Ireland	6	-1

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Region	High	Low
London	15	8
West Midlands	14	7
North Midlands	13	6
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Scotland	7	0
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Wales	8	1
Scotland	7	0
Ireland	6	-1

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY AUGUST 1 1996

Former British Rail managers share £80m profit

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was facing a furious political row over rail privatisation yesterday as 50 former British Rail managers and staff celebrated an £80 million profit from a train leasing company they acquired six months ago.

Labour condemned the £825 million sale of the Porterbrook rolling stock leasing company to Stagecoach as "scandalous" and said it confirmed the public's worst fears about BR being sold on the cheap.

Porterbrook, which leases 3,774 trains to 16 rail companies, about a quarter of BR's former rail fleet, was bought by a management buyout team from the Government in November last year for £527 million. Management and staff put up about 20 per cent of the £75 million initial equity with the rest financed by Charterhouse, the merchant bank, and bank debt. Yesterday's deal values the equity at £475 million with the management team's original stake of £15 million now worth about £95 million.

The sale has made multimillionaires of the company's six executive directors, led by Sandy Anderson, the managing director. Middle managers and junior staff, who all invested in the buyout, also stand to make hundreds of thousands of pounds each. "Sandy won't be worrying about his gas bills any more," said one deal insider.

Glenda Jackson, a Labour transport spokeswoman, said: "This is absolutely scandalous. Since Porterbrook was privatised not a single new train has been built or even ordered and yet here are the managers turned into overnight millionaires. Yet again the taxpayer suffers while the fat cat controllers lick the cream."

All the managers and staff involved in the buyout will be staying with the company and Mr Anderson will join the board of Stagecoach. They will have to take Stagecoach shares for about 40 per cent of their holdings in Porterbrook with the remainder in cash or shares.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3763.2	(+34.7)
Yield	4.14%	
Long Bond	87.5%	(+13.33)
Midland	2092.83	(-187.50)
New York	8294.47	(+42.54)
Dow Jones	8294.47	(+4.08)
S&P Composite	339.34	(+4.08)
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75)
Long Bond	87.5%	(5.75)
Yield	6.89%	(7.04%)
3-mo Treasury	5.75%	(5.75)
Life long gilt	100%	(100%)
UK Govt	100%	(100%)
New York	1.5880	(1.5878)
London	1.5871	(1.5864)
DM	2.2933	(2.2922)
FF	1.7819	(1.7803)
Yen	1.5778	(1.5771)
Yen	108.78	(107.85)
E Index	84.5	(84.5)
US\$	1.4729	(1.4720)
DM	1.4729	(1.4720)
FF	1.4729	(1.4720)
Yen	108.78	(107.85)
E Index	84.5	(84.5)
Tokyo close	Yen 107.13	
Bank 15-day (Oct)	818.70	(818.48)
London close	838.28	(838.75)

Post-merger cost cutting goes on

New drugs lift Glaxo Wellcome

BY ERIC REGULY

NEW drugs and continued post-merger cost cutting of costs handed Glaxo Wellcome, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, higher than expected interim earnings.

The group reported a pre-tax profit of £1.55 billion, or 29.7p a share, in the half year to the end of June, up 34 per cent from the £1.16 billion, or 24.2p a share, in the comparable period a year ago.

The 1995 period includes three-and-a-half months of contribution from Wellcome, which was acquired by Glaxo for £9 billion last year. Sales, on a pro-forma basis, rose 6 per cent to £4.19 billion.

Analysts had forecast pre-tax profits ranging from £1.36 billion to £1.5 billion. The shares climbed after the release of the results, but closed down 4 1/2p, at 994 1/2p, after a bout of profit-taking.

Glaxo said that cost savings from the integration of Glaxo and Wellcome were the driving force behind the rise in profit margins from 32 per cent to almost 39 per cent in the half-year period. The group plans to shed 7,000 jobs and save about £700 million a year by the end of 1998.

business, had sales of £1 billion in the first half, down 16 per cent. But sales of new products rose 51 per cent to £327 million. The products include Imigran, an anti-migraine drug whose sales grew 78 per cent to £263 million, and Serevent, a respiratory treatment whose sales came to £181 million, up 40 per cent.

Sir Richard said: "This is confirmation that the revenues earned over many years by the pre-eminence of Zantac are being replaced, not by a single successor product, but by a range of important medicines in several key therapeutic areas."

Glaxo hopes to keep the momentum going with the launch of four new products in America before the end of the year. However, not all new products are on the rise. Competition reduced the sales of Zofran, its main oncology drug, by 7 per cent. The company said that Zofran was now "stabilising" and had the potential to expand in new markets.

Some analysts said that the decline in Zantac sales was higher than expected. The company is trying to play down the impact of the loss of Zantac's patent in the US, but has made no forecasts on the expected sales decline.

Glaxo also played down the likelihood of another acquisition even though it has managed to knock down its net debt to £2.1 billion, from £3.2 billion, at the end of last year through strong cash flow and the sale of its over-the-counter operations for £581 million.

Glaxo does not seem to have the appetite for another hostile acquisition and knows that any large-scale purchase would be disruptive to employees, who are still reeling from the redundancy programme.

Sir Richard said he expected few mega-mergers in the near future. He added: "At the moment, there appears to be a relative degree of stability in the market place."

Glaxo's interim dividend is being maintained at 15p. It said that shareholders would see a satisfactory year-on-year dividend increase.

Pennington, page 25



Gordon Hodgson, Cowie chief executive, yesterday continued the company's spending spree with the acquisition of North East Bus group for £26.5 million. Full story page 25

Over 1,000 jobs to go at Royal & Sun

BY CAROLINE MCKEILL

ROYAL & Sun Alliance, the UK's biggest insurance company, announced the closure of 94 branches and the loss of 1,300 jobs yesterday, just ten days after making its stock market debut as a merged company. The move marks the first phase of a two-year redundancies programme.

The insurance company, formed from the merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, plans to cut its combined worldwide workforce by 5,000 from the current level of 45,000 by 1998. The company claimed that the branch closures were divided equally between the two former companies.

As well as announcing 300 job losses in branches, the company said that it was reducing staff numbers at the former Sun Alliance head office in Hammersmith, West Sussex, by 500 to 2,000, and cutting staff at the Royal's former head office in Liverpool by the same number to 3,000.

The branch closures would increase competitiveness in the direct market by cutting costs substantially, it said. Further job losses are expected to be finalised at management level later this month. The company also said that it had made 89 management appointments across its four operating divisions.

The insurer is restructuring its management by inviting staff to reapply for their jobs.

Number of repossessed homes falls in first half

BY SARA MCCONNELL

JUST over 24,000 households had their homes repossessed in the first six months of this year, 1,100 fewer than at the same time last year and 110 fewer than in the second half of last year, the Council of Mortgage Lenders said yesterday.

The latest figures confirm the gradual fall in repossessions since their peak in the second half of 1991, although the total has hovered stubbornly close to the 24,500 mark since 1994. In absolute terms the figures are at their lowest for six years.

There was a more marked reduction in the number of households seriously in arrears on their mortgages, with a 13 per cent drop in borrowers 12 months or more late with payments and a total fall in all arrears of 10 per cent.

Adrian Coles, the director-general of the CML, welcomed the figures as a "considerable improvement", but cautioned against over-optimism. He said: "The key is to get a sustained and gradual recovery."

Mr Coles cited a combination of falling unemployment, affordable mortgages, rising house prices and better arrears counselling and management by lenders as the main reasons for the continuing improvement. But a sharp rise in interest rates could easily throw people back into arrears.

Rising house prices allowed lenders to sell 27,810 repossessed homes, up from 26,880 in the second half of last year and 24,230 in the first half of last year. Mr Coles denied that lenders would take advantage of a rising market to increase their repossession activity.

Bank serves injunction on departing star player

BY JON ASHWORTH

KLEINWORT Benson has served an injunction on one of its former star players in an apparent attempt to prevent the departure of key clients and staff. Tim Horlick, soon to take up a senior position with Salomon Brothers, has been ordered to hand over confidential papers, and is barred from approaching his former colleagues.

Kleinwort Benson, part of Dresdner Bank, has suffered a number of staff losses recently. Mr Horlick, 35, former co-head of Global Equity Capital Markets, resigned last month to take up a position with

Salomon, which is recruiting aggressively under Peter Middleton, former chief executive of Lloyd's of London. He starts as chief operating officer of European Investment Banking in September.

Mr Horlick's assignments at Kleinwort Benson included the flotation of Deutsche Telekom. He is barred from poaching members of his former team and is threatened with damages for breach of contract and/or wrongful use of information. The move is heavily-handed, even by the standards of the City where departing employees routinely

spend a period of time on "garden leave". Mr Horlick leaves for France on holiday today. His wife, Nicola, head of asset management at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "The whole thing's a nonsense. Kleinwort has just got completely paranoid and hysterical."

She believed the action was linked to a Hungarian issue called MOL2, which was jointly awarded to KB and Salomon soon after Mr Horlick resigned. He worked on the original MOL issue. There was no comment from Kleinwort Benson.

Directors at S&N enjoy pay bonanza

DIRECTORS at Scottish and Newcastle brewing group enjoyed pay rises averaging 22 per cent last year (Allison Murray writes). Brian Stewart, chief executive, saw his base salary increased by 15 per cent, to £348,000, and his bonus payment by 62 per cent, to £63,000, according to the annual report.

There were 24 per cent rises for Guy Dickson, chairman of Scottish Courage (to £273,000), and Ian Hannah, chairman of S&N's retail division (to £293,000), and 23 per cent for Derek Wilkinson, finance director (to £238,000).

Price proposal hits NIE shares

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

SHARES in Northern Ireland Electricity fell 53p to 353p after the electricity regulator recommended that the company reduce its prices by almost one third next year.

After a year-long investigation into NIE's tariffs, which are 23 per cent higher than the British average, the regulator, Douglas McDoom, recommended changes to NIE's price controls which should result in a reduction of 1p a unit from April next year. The proposed changes would knock 12 per cent off total domestic users' bills and 6 per cent off industry's electricity

costs. The recommendations only directly affect between 20 and 40 per cent of final electricity prices.

However NIE said the proposals could affect the reliability of services and investment in new projects, and would also have a significant impact on revenues. It was "quite surprised at the severity of the proposed reduction," NIE can accept the recommendations or refer the issue to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

NIE recorded a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £107.4 million for the year ended March 1995.



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Jobs threat as rental chain calls receiver

By Sarah Cunningham

COLORVISION, the television and video rental chain, yesterday asked its bankers to call in administrative receivers, putting 800 jobs at risk.

The board said the company, which has debts of some £1.5 million, was unable to trade within its credit limits because of poor sales and the continuing impact of problems earlier in the year with the Office of Fair Trading. Arthur Andersen was appointed receiver last night.

In January, the Liverpool-based chain had its consumer credit licence revoked by the OFT after a series of dishonest practices, including selling second-hand goods as new.

In May the OFT agreed not to contest Colorvision's appeal against the revocation of its licence. In return, the founder directors agreed to step aside as part of a financial restructuring, and the company gave assurances about its future conduct.

However, the company said in a statement yesterday that, in common with many other high street stores trading in the consumer durables sector, its sales had not recovered to anticipated levels.

The receiver will look for a buyer for the whole or parts of the 76-branch business, which could help to save the jobs under threat.

TOURIST RATES

	Dark	Light
Australia S	2.11	1.86
Austria S	17.17	18.67
Belgium F	20.24	48.04
Canada S	2.248	2.008
Cyprus Cyp	10.747	0.852
Denmark Dk	8.45	8.80
Finland Mk	7.58	8.93
France Fr	8.55	7.55
Germany Dm	2.45	2.24
Greece Gr	352	297
Hong Kong S	12.70	11.70
Ireland Ir	1.19	0.93
Israel Is	1.01	0.88
Italy It	5.31	4.90
Japan Yen	161.80	165.00
Korea S	0.588	0.540
Netherlands Gld	2.732	2.502
New Zealand S	2.41	2.10
Norway Nkr	10.47	9.67
Portugal Esc	347.30	228.00
S Africa R	7.55	8.75
Spain Ptas	209.00	190.00
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.11
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.86
Turkey Lira	132770	194770
USA \$	1.698	1.628

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Lord Cairns, front left, chairman of BAT Industries; Martin Broughton, front right, chief executive; Sandy Leitch, back left; and David Allvey, finance director; yesterday announcing a 12 per cent rise in BAT's half-year profits

Unions cite private deals in public-sector push

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PRIVATE-SECTOR job deals are to be used for the first time by public-sector trade unions as a model in trying to reach a groundbreaking working arrangement for 1.6 million workers in local government.

Public-sector unions, in their attempts to reach, for the first time, a deal covering both manual and white-collar employees in local government, are citing agreements, such as that at Rover Cars, that offer guarantees on job security in return for flexible working and improved productivity.

Although single-status agreements are common in the private sector, they are rare in public-sector areas, such as local government, hospitals, education and the Civil Service.

Now, however, union negotiators, in a series of concentrated negotiations starting next month, are to press for a common agreement for white-collar and blue-collar workers in local government. The agreement is likely to include a "commitment to security of employment", according to

union proposals on the outline of a suggested deal.

Council employers are keen for a single-status deal, but worried about its cost. They are also likely to want to link it to a pay deal due next April, but union leaders want to keep the two elements separate.

Usually, because of job-loss fears, public-sector unions have tried not to use private-sector job developments as models, but local government leaders yesterday cited the success of agreements such as Rover, and said that they

could be emulated in the public sector.

Jack Dromey, public services national secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "Rover and other similar agreements are models of work we like. We played our part in transforming Rover into a world-beater. Now we want to transform local government."

Union leaders said that the single-status claims were the "most significant negotiations in the history of local government".

Mr Dromey said: "We want to achieve by consensus a settlement in local government that will endure for a generation."

Given the strongly female workforce in local government, union officials emphasised that a single-status council deal would be the first such agreement to apply to so many women workers.

Britain's 40,000 police civilian staff have voted overwhelmingly to accept an offer of a 3.6 per cent pay rise including a single-status deal.

Reed Elsevier eyes Blenheim

By Eric Reguly

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, is considering making a bid for Blenheim, the exhibitions organiser.

It is biding its time hoping that Blenheim, led by Neville Buch, chairman, will drop the asking price, believed to be about £500 million.

Reed, through Reed Exhibitions Companies, organises about 300 exhibitions a year globally and wants to consolidate its position as one of the largest players. United News & Media, the newspaper and exhibitions company that merged with MAI, has been negotiating to buy

Blenheim for more than a month. But United's exclusive talks agreement has expired and the company would not comment on its intentions.

Reed is expected to provide more details on its interest in Blenheim next Thursday, when Reed announces its interim results.

BAT aims to expand financial services in Asia

By Alasdair Murray

BAT Industries, the tobacco and insurance company, yesterday said that it is looking at expansion opportunities for its financial services division in Spain and Asia.

BAT hopes to bid for new life-insurance licences in China and India, as well as making an acquisition in Spain.

Sandy Leitch, chief executive of British American Financial Services, said that the insurance division was aiming to grow profits at 20 per cent above previously-set targets over the next five years. He said that the company was looking to cut costs by £50 million during the same period but would not be declaring large-scale redundancies.

Mr Leitch made his comments after BAT announced a 12 per cent rise in half-year profits, to £1.33 billion. Underlying profits, stripping out the sales of two subsidiaries, rose by 8 per cent.

Profits in the financial services division grew by 3 per cent, to £554 million, after an 8 per cent improvement, to £329 million, in the general insurance businesses. Profits in the life and investment business fell by 4 per cent, to £225 million, and the loss on the worldwide underwriting business increased to £52 million, from £28 million.

BAT said that there was an encouraging trend in the life and investment businesses, with Allied Dunbar enjoying a 29 per cent rise in new business premiums.

Tobacco profits continued to grow, in spite of legal battles in the United States. Profits rose by 7 per cent, to £798 million, as cigarette volumes increased by 4 per cent. The American-Pacific region enjoyed a 13 per cent rise in profits after price rises in the US, but profits in the Latin American and European divisions declined. BAT repeated its view that it expects to defeat all current tobacco-related lawsuits in the US.

The interim dividend rises by 8 per cent, to 10p, due on January 3. Shares in the company rose 22p, to close at 504p.

Times, page 26

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BSE scare takes toll of profits at Sims

THE BSE scare crippled trading at Sims, the meat products group, which recorded a loss of £49.3 million in the year to March 31 after making a pre-tax profit of £4.18 million last year. The group sold its loss-making refrigeration and catering divisions during the winter, for a loss of £30.6 million. It had also arranged the disposal of its core retail division, but this was halted by the BSE warning on March 20.

The remaining businesses made an underlying profit of £2.2 million on sales of £240 million. Although the BSE warning came just 11 days before Sims's year end, the group wrote off £11.3 million against goodwill and ran up redundancy costs of £3.2 million on closing three plants as a result. Losses per share were 141.8p (earnings of 5.2p), precluding a final dividend.

Recycling group ahead

WASTE RECYCLING GROUP almost trebled its pre-tax profits from £1.14 million to £3.29 million in the six months to June 30, after a new transfer and recycling plant helped to lift sales from £3.29 million to £6.31 million. The company said that its prospects were enhanced by the Government's plans to impose landfill tax, which would prompt waste disposal firms to take a second look at recycling. Earnings were 0.9p ahead at 3.8p per share, allowing for a maiden interim of 0.5p.

BT serves writ on AT&T

BT and AT&T, its new rival in the domestic phone market, are at war over which offers the best prices. BT has served a writ on AT&T, alleging that America's biggest long-distance carrier infringed BT's trademark and "maliciously" made false statements about its service. The writ came after an AT&T brochure claimed that consumers could save up to 40 per cent on BT international call rates by switching to AT&T. BT plans to make a full statement of claim to the High Court next week.

Gas wins concessions

BRITISH GAS will never have to publish tariffs for large industrial users and for medium-sized businesses the requirement is on hold until this time next year. The concessions mean that British Gas does not have to reveal commercially sensitive price information while its competitors do not, allowing them to undercut its rates. Ofgas, the industry regulator, made them yesterday after a review into the state of competition in the market.

Thames Water buyback

THAMES WATER repurchased 10 per cent of its capital, buying 41.36 million shares at 543p per share, in a £224.5 million deal. The share price slipped 5p to 540p after the move reduced demand in the market. David Luffrum, finance director, said the move, agreed by shareholders at the annual meeting, would improve the company's capital structure. The company said the buy-back would leave adequate balance-sheet strength to meet investment plans.

Scottish Power setback

SCOTTISHPOWER has failed in the High Court to win a judicial review of the way generating costs are reflected in the cost of electricity. The action followed the Monopolies and Mergers Commission granting of a dispensation to Scottish Hydro-Electric after that company sought a referral over a decision on generating costs. Yesterday ScottishPower said that it would cut its rights issue to raise £240 million rather than £589 million to back its purchase of Southern Water.

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Number	Amount	
146,400,000	£36,600,000	ordinary shares of 25p each
		Number 110,575,999
		Amount £27,613,750

A prospectus dated 31 July 1996 (the "Prospectus") relating to the Offers has been published. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday from the date of this notice up to and including 5 August 1996 for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP and during normal business hours up to and including 16 August 1996 from:

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1 August 1996

□ Problems loom from patent losses □ Less-than-stinging rebuke for Davis □ Kepit investors offered a way out

Glaxo heads for cold turkey

JUST when everything seems to be going well with the Glaxo Wellcome marriage, here come the first signs that the honeymoon is over. At the world's largest pharmaceuticals concern the numbers are again looking respectable. Earnings and sales are rising, debt is falling and ruthless cost-cutting has restored profit margins. So why are the management reaching for their (spectacularly successful) ulcer pills?

By this time next year, Glaxo will have lost the American patents on those two drugs, Zantac and Zovirax, almost entirely responsible for its success. Zantac, the ulcer treatment launched in 1981, saw peak annual sales of some \$4 billion. Loss of patents in a few markets, notably Germany, has since reduced these to \$5 billion, but they still account for a quarter of total revenues.

As 1997 approaches, Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, and other senior managers have been telling everyone who will listen that concerns about the effects of generic competition are overblown. Fear not, they say, because new products will more than make up the slack. Indeed, new products, defined as those drugs introduced since 1990, have so far more than offset Zantac's decline. The question is whether they will continue to do so when Zantac falls off a cliff in America next year.

But a couple of warning signs suggest that Sir Richard and company are more scared than they appear. The first is their refusal to predict the size of the fall in Zantac sales. You can bet that we would hear about it if the expected decline was anything less than the City's most pessimistic guesses.

The second and more telling sign is that Glaxo is not going out of its way to court American investors. In the early 1990s, about 27 per cent of Glaxo's shareholders were American. They have been fleeing in droves as part of the American disenchantment with anything produced by men in lab coats, and now own about 10 per cent.

In normal times, Glaxo would wind up the investor relations machine and schmooze every institution in the land to win them back. The only reason they are not is fear of making potentially misleading comments to America's insanely litigious investment community. Zantac might lose just one third of its market share in the first year — or it might be obliterated. Glaxo is being understandably careful. American institutions have long memories, and a company that

derives almost half of its sales in the US cannot afford to lose Wall Street's confidence.

In the end, Glaxo will probably overcome Zantac's decline. SmithKline Beecham proved that the promise of new products can mask many problems. That company is growing strongly even though sales of its own Tagamet compound, Zantac's main competitor, plummeted by 75 per cent after the drug lost its US patent in 1994. Glaxo, however, is much more reliant on Zantac than SmithKline ever was on Tagamet. Glaxo's recovery period is bound to take correspondingly longer.

Word to the unwise over Lottery award

THE award of the contract to run the National Lottery is developing into one of those fine Establishment scandals where the facts are buried forever under an avalanche of weasel words and evasion. Readers may remember the evidence to the Public Accounts Committee in the spring from Peter Davis, the Lottery regulator.

Mr Davis had awarded the



contract to an American business with a less than spotless reputation, with one of whose executives he had enjoyed a family friendship. The leitmotiv from his evidence was "concern". He had thought about it long and hard. He had told others of his concern. Then he gave the job to the Americans. After that he enjoyed trips around the US to various state lotteries in a jet owned by that same business, GTECH. His reason for accepting such largesse? To save the British taxpayer money.

Mr Davis is entitled to put the best construction on his behaviour, but one might have expected more from the MPs. Yet the leitmotiv from the PAC, in the bowdlerised report that emerged yesterday after an earlier, more trenchant attack on

Mr Davis had been toned down, is "unwise". Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, thought it might not have been wise to spend so much time on that corporate jet. MPs agree, and think it unwise to have used the jet to visit his friend's home.

For Joe Painter, queuing for his daily scratchcard fix, the Lottery might as well be run by the Medellín cocaine cartel under Sooty and Sweep. He only wants to win — just once would be nice. Please. The inquiry into Mr Davis's behaviour is about standards in public life, so it is perhaps no surprise that no one has any intention of resigning, even if in more strait-laced times "serious errors of judgment" (the PAC's words) might be regarded as justifying a dignified departure. But consider if such behaviour were to be adopted by other regulators.

Ian Byatt winned and dined by Yorkshire Water? The ascetic Professor Littlechild flown all over the world by PowerGen? They would never have survived the scandal. Lucky Mr Davis. Perhaps GTECH should run another lottery, identifying acts so heinous that he would ac-

tually have to go. Line up six and you win. You'd have a better chance of winning on the scratchcards, though.

A tale of two trusts

THIS is the tale of the terrible twins, Kepit and Mepit. About two years ago, although it seems more like two decades now, European privatisation looked like a wonderful new gravy train for all those who had profited from such issues in Britain.

So Kleinwort and Mercury, two of the City's most reputable names, gave birth to the twins. They were rival European investment trusts, hence the nicknames, aimed at those privatisations as they rolled off the slipways across Europe. Albanian breweries, Norwegian telecoms, you didn't even need to know what you were buying, but as the privatisation virus swept across Europe you were ensured a part of the action.

It all went horribly wrong. For a start the twins were too greedy, raising between them more than £1 billion of investors' money. This meant little demand from

other investors once trading in the trusts started, even if Kleinwort did turn away £250 million worth of excess applications. American interest rates and stock markets turned not long after the launch. Too many of the privatisations were absolute dogs, priced at what they were worth and so not offering investors the immediate returns we had all come to expect from British sell-offs.

Hurt corporate pride spurred Mercury and Kleinwort into action. Mercury launched a limited buyback for Mepit. Kleinwort has since put together a more complicated and more effective scheme for Kepit, involving swapping up to 60 per cent of the equity into loan stock, which Kleinwort will then buy off investors.

But another big institution has its own plans. Henderson Administration wants to buy up Kepit, sell off the assets, and return 99.25 per cent of the proceeds to shareholders. The remaining 0.75 per cent, or £3.5 million, is its fee. In addition, Kepit shareholders can swap some of their shares into one of Henderson's more successful European trusts. The scheme offers a more direct route out for the disenchanted, even if it begs certain questions about how much the assets can be sold for. But investors might want to wait to see what else that hurt pride may tempt out of Kleinwort.

Cowie pays £26.5m for bus company

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COWIE has catapulted itself into second place among UK bus operators with the purchase of North East Bus for £26.5 million.

The second spot was previously held by Stagecoach.

The acquisition gives Cowie more than 18 per cent of the UK bus market, behind first-placed FirstBus, with 20 per cent of the market, but ahead of Stagecoach, which controls about 17 per cent.

Cowie, which has expanded into buses from the vehicle contract hire business, announced its latest purchase yesterday as it reported record pre-tax profits for the six months ending June 30, up 19 per cent to £32.2 million. Turnover was almost unchanged at £529 million.

An interim dividend of 3.4p, up 11.5 per cent on the same time last year, will be paid on September 5.

Cowie's interim profits were boosted by its bus companies in London, where it is the largest operator, which showed an increase in passenger revenue.

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive, said that the acquisition of British Bus, announced in June and due for completion today, and of North East Bus, would be "immediately enhancing, whilst bringing to the group a better balance of bus and motor-related businesses".

Cowie raised the money to pay for British Bus through a rights issue. North East Bus, which has been bought from West Midlands Travel, part of National Express Group, will be paid for in cash. Cowie will pay £24.5 million plus a £2 million dividend payable on completion.

North East Bus has annualised turnover of about £29 million and runs services in County Durham and on Teesside. In the nine months ending December 31 last year, it made an operating profit of £3 million. It has 422 buses and nearly 1,200 employees.

National Express said yesterday that the proceeds of the sale would be re-invested in the group.

Cowie shares ticked down 1p, to 373p, while National Express shares also closed down 1p, at 442p.

Salvesen rejects Hays offer

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN yesterday rejected a takeover bid worth more than £1 billion from Hays, the business services group, but said it was willing to consider "a significantly improved financial proposal" (Sarah Cunningham writes).

In a letter to Hays, which it also published through the Stock Exchange, the board of Salvesen, the Edinburgh storage, distribution and specialist hire group, described the bid as "inadequate". Chris Masters, chief executive, said the company would not negotiate any deal with Hays. Hays would only say it was "considering its position."

Hays closed unchanged at 429p. Salvesen lost 4p to 356p.

Dairy Crest shares to float at 155p

SOME 28,000 dairy farmers will receive shares worth an average of £6,000 each when Dairy Crest, the milk and cheese company, is floated this month (Paul Durman writes).

Dairy Crest shares were yesterday priced at 155p, valuing the company at £171.4 million. Some analysts had looked for a share price nearer 180p.

The company, previously part of the now-defunct Milk Marketing Board, is owned by the Residuary Milk Marketing Board on behalf of farmers.

Julian Lakin, a Merrill Lynch analyst, said the pricing had been affected by weak demand for new issues.

Hoare Govett, the broker, yesterday placed 30 per cent of the shares with institutions.

Tempus, page 26

Bid for Kleinwort trust

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TR EUROPEAN Growth Trust (Treg) has announced a near £500 million bid for Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) seven days before shareholders vote on Kepit's own proposals for a share buyback at an extraordinary meeting (See Pennington, this page).

Treg is offering 93.86p per Kepit share in cash and 28.16p per warrant, although the final offer depends on market price and expenses on the day the bid is completed. Kepit shares rose 2p to 91p yesterday on the news. However, since the launch of the trust in 1994 the shares have traded consistently at a discount to the net asset value (NAV) per share.

At July 29, Kepit's NAV was 102.9p. Treg is offering the equivalent of an NAV of 94.6p and says the lower figure takes into account the cost of winding up the company, legal fees, and termination fees for the original fund managers.

Kepit, meanwhile, is recommending its shareholders take no action. Treg says that its existing shareholders will benefit from an uplift in net asset value. Sir Geoffrey Little, chairman of Treg, said the offer represented a better option than Kepit's own buyback scheme. He added that it represented "a 5 per cent increase on the July 30 share price and a 10 per cent rise on the warrant price".

B.A.T INDUSTRIES

Dividend up 8%

First half unaudited results to 30 June 1996

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,331m	+12%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	26.0p	+12%
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	10.0p	+8%

- Pre-tax profit rose by 12 per cent to £1,331 million, an underlying 8 per cent, excluding the effect of disposals.
- Financial services profit increased by 3 per cent to £554 million, with a reduced profit of £225 million from the life and investment business, and the general business 8 per cent higher at £329 million.
- Tobacco trading profit was up by 7 per cent, to £798 million, against last year's outstanding first half, even though there was a significant increase in brand development expenditure in a number of markets.
- "B.A.T Industries is continuing to make good progress. The Board is declaring an interim dividend of 10.0p, an 8 per cent increase, as part of our long-term commitment to deliver superior total returns for shareholders."

Lord Cairns, Chairman

The full interim report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

US economic cheer puts shares back above 3,700

POSITIVE news on the US economy cheered investors on both sides of the Atlantic and carried the London stock market back above the 3,700 level.

The latest Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index revealed a weaker trend, easing fears that the US economy was overheating and worries over the need of a rate rise.

London took advantage and there were some encouraging trading statements from a clutch of leading companies. Share prices closed near their best levels of the day. The FTSE 100 index reflected an early mark-up in the Dow Jones average, finishing 34.7 points up at 3,703.2.

New product launches at Glaxo Wellcome have cushioned declining sales of its best-selling, anti-ulcer treatment Zantac, which comes off patent next year. The company was also upbeat about the progress being made on the Aids front with Epiriv and Retrovir, its two treatments. It emerged with half-year profits showing pre-tax profits up from £461 million to £1.5 billion after the merger. The shares failed to reflect the company's enthusiasm, finishing 4.1p cheaper at 894.4p.

The absence of the much-talked of bid from Glaxo Wellcome saw Chiroscience touch 353p before bouncing back to finish 3p better at 368p. Almost one million shares changed hands, suggesting someone may still be stalking the company.

The City gave a warm response to half-year figures from BAT Industries, up 22p at 504p, showing pre-tax profits up £110 million at £876 million. Once again the main thrust to profits came from the tobacco side, but the group confirmed plans to expand the business and is looking overseas to make acquisitions. Savings on the financial side were expected to reach £50 million during the next five years.

A better than expected performance from Guardian Royal Exchange boosted the shares 9p to 243p. Interim pre-tax profits were down from £327 million to £231 million. According to brokers it could have been a lot worse.

Thames Water's share buyback boosted stock market turnover after Cazeno, the company's broker, picked up an estimated 41.4 million shares at 543p each. The shares finished 5p cheaper at



To market: Sir Derek Andrews, Residuary Milk Marketing Board chairman, left, and Mike Dowdall of Dairy Crest

540p. At Tuesday's annual meeting the group obtained permission to buy back up to 10 per cent of the issued share capital. Total stock market turnover reached 784 million.

Northern Ireland Electricity reacted to news of the industry regulator's pricing proposals with a fall of 53p to 353p. The company said the proposals contained in the

Kingfisher rose 6p to 623p helped by a bullish review from SBC Warburg, the broker, which appears impressed by future strategy. Warburg expects Kingfisher to achieve significant growth and increase market share across the retail sector. Above-average growth should be seen up to the turn of the century.

review are likely to lead to more than £60 million a year in lost revenue. If the company rejects the proposals the matter will go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The bargain-hunters were out in force at Reckitt & Colman as the price slipped off recent weakness to 24p dearer at 657p. By the close two million shares had

expectations and suggests the dairy products group is the latest casualty of City investors' growing disillusionment with the steady stream of new issues.

Northern Foods eased 2p to 187p, while Unigate firmed 2p to 409p.

Sinas Foods fell 4p to 55p after plunging into the red last year with losses approaching £50 million. The company

changed hands in a thin market. Brokers say a correction was inevitable after seeing the price drop by around 100p in recent weeks.

Shares of Dairy Crest, whose chairman is Mike Dowdall, are to start trading on the stock market next month at 155p, valuing the entire company at £171 million. That is at the lower end of

blamed the effects of "mad cow" disease and losses on disposals.

Christian Salvesen, the business services group, slipped 4p to 356p, having briefly touched 344p, after rejecting the bid approach from rival Hays, unchanged at 429p.

Stagecoach soared 60.2p to 542.1p after paying £476 million for the Porterbrook railway rolling stock leasing company, while Cowie was 1p easier at 373p after paying National Express £24.5 million for North East Bus. It makes Cowie Britain's second biggest bus operator.

A profits warning left Marshalls, the building supplier, 9p lower at 136p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that operating profits were down 13 per cent in the first quarter on the corresponding period last year. Andrew Marshall, chairman, said the commercial, industrial and housing markets had not shown any improvement.

Pilkington fell 8p to 182p after some cautious comments at the annual meeting.

Card Clear, the credit card payment and fraud prevention specialist, firmed 2p to 34p. The group, where Nigel Whitaker, former Kingfisher director, is on the board, has entered into a joint venture with Mastercard, foreign exchange operator.

Shares of Colorvision were suspended at 21p prior to the group's bankers appointing administrative receivers. The company said the move was made because of expected trading levels and the worsening cash flow situation.

CLIFF-EDGED: The ill-effects of sterling's weakness on the foreign exchange was offset by firmer US treasury bonds and German bunds.

In thin trading, prices across the spectrum managed to claw back earlier falls in thin trading to finish with gains of a couple of ticks.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt ended a tick firmer at £106.132. At the ultra-long end of the market, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 also hardened a tick to 97.773, while in shorts Treasury 7 1/2 per cent 1998 was £132 easier at £101.173.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street followed bonds higher, putting the Dow Jones industrial average 42.54 points higher at 5,524.47 by midday.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5524.47 (+42.54)
S&P Composite	629.34 (+4.08)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei average	20942.83 (+187.50)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10641.42 (+95.50)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	535.73 (+0.23)
Sydney:	
ASX	2180.30 (+19.50)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2473.35 (+15.67)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2111.76 (+28.61)
Brussels:	
General	9311.04 (+68.00)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1095.90 (+27.40)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	736.30 (+3.10)

London:	
FT 30	2718.8 (+24.3)
FT 100	2703.2 (+34.7)
FT-SE Mid 50	4220.6 (+11.5)
FT-SE 250	1558.1 (+14.7)
FT-SE Eurozone 100	1598.93 (+6.00)
FT A All-Share	1835.44 (+13.33)
FT Non Financials	1942.2 (+12.44)
FT Fixed Interest	112.82 (Same)
FT Govt Securities	127.77 (+0.03)
Serapis	2646
SEAQ Volume	784.8M
USM (Dow Jones)	201.76 (+0.23)
USM (Dow Jones)	201.76 (+0.23)
German Mark	2.2910 (+0.0078)
Exchange Index	84.6 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (p.m.)	1.2044
ESOR	1.0648
RPI	153.0 Jun (2.1%) Jan 1997: 100
RPI	152.6 Jun (2.8%) Jan 1997: 100

RECENT ISSUES

AND International	77	...
Allytime	45	...
Allied Carpets	220	+
Alumas	1999	+ 31
Arkins	230	- 2
BATM Advd Cms	138	...
Bentley	930	...
Digital Amnms	85	...
Drings of Bath	4	...
Electronic Reig	148	...
Paywood	48	...
HIT Entertain (163)	189	...
Hat Pin	60	...
Moore Goveit 1000 C	97	...
Life Numbers	18	...
Life Numbers Ws	6	...
Loneyking Ws	1	...
NECA	18	...
Network Tech	140	+ 1
Pace Micro (172)	175	+
Pilamom	172	...
Pordum Foods Ws	174	...
Quintain Ests & Dev	114	...
Robert Walters	114	...
Selector	68	...
Therap Antibodies	477	- 8
UNO	165	- 9
West 175 Etern	130	...
Xavier Computer	11	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Insprts Pt n/p (100)	15	...
Lorien n/p (250)	10	...
Old English n/p (100)	10	...
Sema Gp n/p (505)	124	+
Syndex C n/p (110)	2	...
Tinsley Rbr n/p (130)	14	...
Tullow Oil n/p (80)	8	- 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Blenheim Gp	4250 (+33p)
Obbome & Little	7900 (+50p)
BAT	5040 (+22p)
Carlton Comm	4580 (+11p)
Airious	5130 (+12p)
FALLS:	
Great	2050 (-25p)
Alumina	3800 (-10p)
Premier Farnell	8260 (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

On the rails

GROWLING and grumbling from the Labour Party clearly did an enormous favour to the capitalists who invested in Porterbrook. In the teeth of opposition anger in November last year, the Department of Transport received only £527 million for the rolling stock company that yesterday was sold to Stagecoach for an enterprise value of £825 million.

Investor sentiment has clearly changed about the nascent private rail industry and, as usual, Stagecoach is making a grab for the shiniest apples. The bus company has been bidding for most of the private rail franchises going, but so far has secured only one — South West Trains, a strong indication that it has been underbidding. In truth, Stagecoach may have lost some of its keen interest in the hot market for rail franchises. The money to

be made from leasing rather than operating trains, explains why. Stagecoach is buying Porterbrook for less than ten times its pre-interest profits of £86 million. That in itself looks modest for a business that enjoys a government guarantee on 80 per cent of its revenue. The gilt-edged cashflow of about £140 million per annum will be securitised allowing Stagecoach to substantially reduce interest costs. At the same time, the renewal of train maintenance contracts offers the opportunity to squeeze competing workshops.

The only worry for Stagecoach is that the OFT objects to a rolling stock company being owned by a train operator. Objections will be raised to vertical integration, but if Stagecoach wants to increase Porterbrook's business it would have little interest in doing sweetheart deals with South West Trains.

BAT Industries

BAT is fond of reminding investors that it has never paid a penny in compensation to sufferers of smoking-related illnesses. Yet its share price performance bears an uncanny resemblance to that of T&N, which has paid millions of pounds to asbestos sufferers.

BAT still faces scores of would-be litigants ranging from former smokers to state governments attempting to recoup medical costs. The recent scare prompted by the news that Liggett, a small American rival, had apparently settled a tobacco-related case has now receded and the separate Castano action also fell at its latest judicial hurdle. Yet, BAT shares behave as though an American jury was on the verge of awarding punitive damages.

The legal battles have

Dairy Crest

DAIRY CREST looks cheap. Directors of the milk and cheese company are hiding any disappointment they may feel at the modest £171.4 million valuation recommended by its advisers.

At 155p, Dairy Crest's shares are being offered at just over seven times forecast of current-year earnings. Milk rivals Unigate and Northern Foods, admittedly more broadly based companies, trade on multiples of 10.4 and 12 times.

Before reaching for your cheque book, it is worth remembering that Dairy Crest's growth prospects are limited. Milk sales are falling and the cheese market is not growing. Dairy Crest intends to build up its branded business, which includes mature cheddar, but this may be difficult. The company has already cut its cost base.

There is also the continuing row over Milk Marque's pricing of raw

Dairy Crest

milk, and the possibility of a trickle of share sales from the 28,000 farmers who will end up owning nearly 70 per cent of the company.

The Residuary Milk Marketing Board opted for a flotation despite interest from purchasers who may still be in the wings. With strong cash flow, no debt, a prospective yield of 7.5 per cent and a speculative interest, Dairy Crest offers investors ample downside protection.

GRE

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange attempts to make a virtue out of shrinking its business. Writing new business for profit, not for volume, is the intention and who would quibble? Hence the company's decision to pull out of a deal to write insurance for Nanionwide Building Society.

Unfortunately, GRE's self-imposed diet has not been accompanied by generosity towards its shareholders. A

Dairy Crest

decision to stop feeding unprofitable business lines should release capital which might be used in share buybacks. Instead, GRE has been writing cheques to pay for acquisitions: expanding in commercial property with the £48 million purchase of Legal & General's business and the takeover of RAC Insurance Services.

GRE is cutting its staff costs having taken a restructuring provision last year, but shrinking the business ought to accelerate the process. But rivals such as the merged Royal & Sun Alliance have bigger scope for savings. That leaves the hope of a takeover. Murmurs about insurance acquisitions put Eagle Star in the frame as a potential suitor. However, speculation is all that supports the GRE share price. It offers a yield premium well below that of better composite insurers.

Dairy Crest

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

Dairy Crest

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	
COCA	
Jul	1032.80
Aug	1032.80
Sep	1032.80
Oct	1032.80
Nov	1032.80
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

We're talking phone numbers

CARDCALL, the AIM-bond company that produces phonecards, has turned a telling-off from BT to its favour. To live up to its phonecards, CardCall has been decorating them with different designs, ranging from Batman to National Lottery balls. CardCall recently plumped for a picture of a good old British phonebox. Then, BT pulled the plug, terrified that people would think they were using a BT product.

After a court settlement, CardCall agreed to cease production, which left them with unsellable stock of 1,000 cards. Unlike run-of-the-mill limited edition phonecards, the "Redbox" series are the only ones to have been pulled after a legal dispute, and collectors are going crazy for them. Through the pages of phonecard magazines, CardCall's remaining cards, worth £2, are changing hands for £100 each. At a production cost of 10p, this gives the otherwise useless cards a value of £100,000.

Hard cheese

DAIRY CREST discarded 20 pounds of prize-winning cheddar cheese yesterday. A huge sculpture, carved in the shape of Dairy Crest's SSP share price from a cheddar cheddar called Davidstow, which won first prize in the Nantwich International Cheese Show yesterday, was wheeled out for flotation. According to Dairy Crest, "it's a fine cheese, and wasn't in the best condition at the end of the day."

Aibling, Guardian Royal Exchange's German arm, has a convincing name for its new personal motor insurance company, launched last week — Die Alternative.



Floating asset

A NEW arrival at Cliveden won't make a huge contribution to the hotel's profits. The grand hotel has just spent £15,000 on the Belmont — a beautiful slipper launch built in 1924. The 33R vessel is for the exclusive use of guests who stay at the newly restored Spring Cottage, a National Trust house on the banks of the River Thames, that was built for the Duchess of Sutherland, and used by Cliveden owners. The hotel boasts two boats — the Liddersdale, an electric canoe, and Suzie Ann, a £75,000 vessel named after the chairman's wife, who also happens to be the current managing director's ex-wife.

Safer bet

WE know the real reason why London Clubs is relocating the Ritz casino around the corner to St James's Street, rather than extend its lease for its current home in the hotel's basement. According to a former general manager of the Ritz Hotel, which backs onto the casino, used to look like a sieve. He explains: "It was more Manila than Piccadilly. But bearing in mind that we only paid ten guineas a year, we didn't dare complain."

MORAG PRESTON

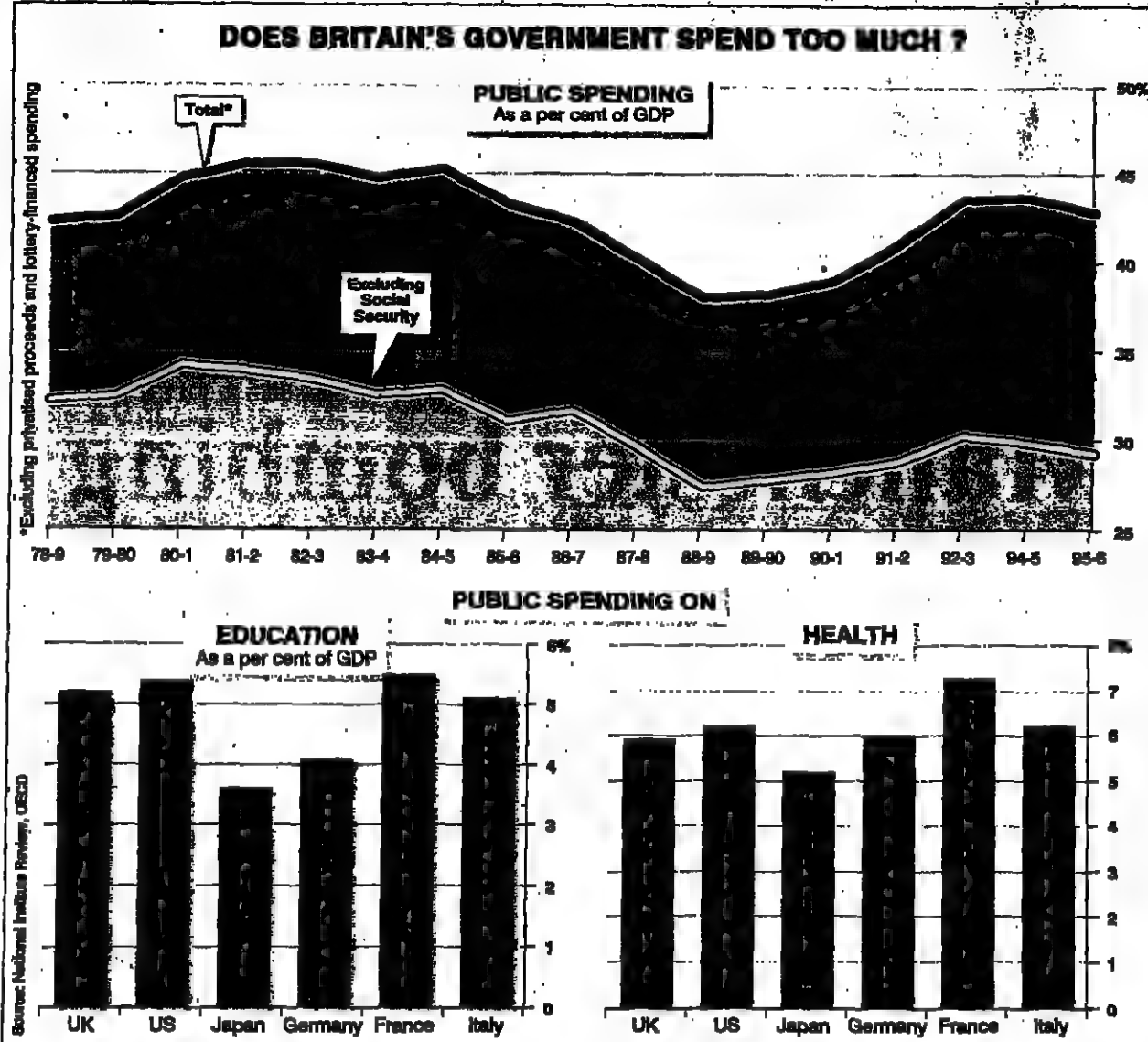
When the public sector is better than the private

Governments have better buying power and can borrow more cheaply

Are public spending and taxes really too high in Britain? It is all too rare these days for a discussion by academically respectable economists to get straight to the point by asking such a direct and important question. For this novelty alone, the article entitled "Are Government Spending and Taxes Too High (or Too Low)?" which was published yesterday in the *National Institute Economic Review*, would deserve attention. And going beyond the title, this concise analysis of Britain's public finances after 17 years of Tory rule should, despite its impenetrable prose and sometimes perverse conclusions, be made compulsory reading for politicians and commentators of all parties.

The value of this article lies not in its main policy conclusion. This is essentially that the only way to reduce, or even control, taxes and public spending is to put the unemployed back to work. This proposition, which has long been obvious to anyone schooled in the Keynesian tradition, is now widely accepted by policymakers the world over. The only people who still seem to believe that significant reductions can be made in either taxes or public spending, without macroeconomic measures to stimulate economic growth are the impractical theorists who inhabit the last redoubts of monetarism — places such as the German Bundesbank, the European Commission and the office of Gordon Brown. The really significant contribution of John Fleming and Peter Oppenheimer, the two distinguished Oxford economists, has not been to proffer their advice but simply to bring together in one thorough study the key statistics and arguments which have been almost completely missed in the incredibly shallow political debate on these all-important issues.

While it is now well-known that public spending and taxes as a share of GDP remained roughly unchanged in the 17 years of Tory rule, the shift in the way the Government spends our money is less widely recognised. The fact is that the Tories have cut spending, and cut it significantly, on many of the key functions of Government. The money spent on providing public goods and services such as education, health, defence, justice, arts and transport has fallen substantially as a proportion of GDP. The trouble is that the savings generated by these cuts have been swallowed up completely by the extra spending on social security transfers — spending which Fleming and Oppenheimer rightly attribute almost entirely to high unemployment, even if much of it is disguised as pensions for early retirees or disability benefits for people pushed off the unem-



ployment rolls. The article rightly rejects most of the Government's claims that spending on health, education and other popular public services has increased in "real terms" under the Tories. Such claims are generally based on misleading statistics which compare the growth in spending with the increase in retail prices. But health, education, policing and most other public services are very labour-intensive, so spending must generally rise in line with wages, rather than prices, for the standard of service just to stand still.

The article also rejects claims that huge efficiency improvements have been "ploughed back" into the provision of better services, since most of these "efficiencies" have resulted simply from holding down pay in the public sector relative to the private sector — a course which is unsustainable in the long term and will eventually be reversed. The article also supports a point often made in this column, particularly in discussing health. Even if private provision of certain public services, such as health and education, turns out to be more efficient in certain respects — for example in making more intensive use of medical equipment and classrooms or in reducing waste in physical resources or employee rostering — it does not follow that privatisation or competition would save money for taxpayers or release resources for other sectors of the economy. Indeed, commercialising the public services will generally drive up costs and result in a

higher proportion of the economy's resources being devoted to health, education, policing and so forth.

The main reason for this is that the Government supplies less in the way of health care and education than many people would buy if left to their own devices. This is particularly true as a country gets richer, the returns to education increase and people live longer and have more income to spare on preserving their health. By rationing the amount of services publicly available — and forcing those who want to buy from the private sector to pay twice over, through taxes on top of insurance or fees — the State actually ensures that education, health and other public services absorb less of the economy's resources than

they would in a competitive market system.

The Government also acts as a monopoly buyer of most public services, and thereby artificially keeps down their costs — most importantly it keeps down the wages of doctors, teachers, professors and policemen below what would probably be their market clearing level in a competitive system. In addition, though this is less certain — there seem to be intangible benefits from working in the public sector which motivate some very able people to work for less than the wages they could command in the open market. Once the public ser-

vices are commercialised such people tend to demand salaries closer to the market rate.

The fourth problem is that commercial systems are hard to organise in many public services, simply because the output is difficult to measure. For example, the attempt to measure health service efficiency by hospital waiting lists and "finished consultant episodes" is convincingly debunked by Fleming and Oppenheimer. These measures of output bear little relation to the health of patients, or even their satisfaction — and create big incentives for political and managerial manipulation and abuse.

Finally, the public sector can raise finance for investment more cheaply than private sector borrowers, especially ones competing in an untried and artificial market traditionally monopolised by public sector institutions.

In many public services, these factors between them are likely to outweigh by far the possible efficiencies that might be achieved by introducing better systems of management accounting, tighter financial controls and more competition. This can be seen most clearly by comparing health spending in America and Britain. America spends 13 per cent of GDP on health, as against 6 per cent in Britain. Within that 13 per cent total, however, the American Government spends more than 5 per cent of GDP to buy modest standards of care for the retired and the indigent. This public spending is the same as Britain's total spending on the NHS for the whole

population. The NHS is so much more efficient than America's commercial system that Britain effectively gets medicine for everyone under 65 as a free extra.

In education, by contrast, Britain spends about the same as most other countries. If Britain's educational attainments are unimpressive, this seems to have little to do either with "under-resourcing" or with the lack of commercial management.

All these arguments about efficiency and resource allocation, however, beg an important question. What if people want to spend or even "waste" more money on health, education and other public services than the political system seems to allow?

As a society gets richer, should tax-financed public services be replaced with private commercial ones to give citizens the right to buy more health, education and so on, even if this is in some sense economically wasteful? And what right does the Government have to operate a monopoly designed to keep down the pay of doctors, professors and so on, simply in order to give taxpayers a better deal?

These are the kind of questions the radical Right ought to be asking if they want to privatise core services in the public sector and dramatically reduce the role of the State. As long as the free-marketers hide behind bogus claims about increasing efficiency and saving money, they will convince no one. The public services are not inherently inefficient — and markets do not always save money. Anyone who finds this incredible should read the National Institute review.

Princely dream begins to reap timely reward

Jon Ashworth finds renewed optimism over the contentious Poundbury project

The royal divorce settlement has come and gone, but there is no easy let-up for the Duchy of Cornwall, the traditional provider of income to the Prince of Wales. Pressure on the Duchy to perform is greater than ever, and nowhere are the stakes higher than in Poundbury, the controversial housing development on the outskirts of Dorchester, West Dorset.

The butt of various jokes over the years, Poundbury is at last beginning to prove its critics wrong. Some 69 houses have been built since work began three years ago, and a further 88 are under construction. Half the homes were purchased by the Guinness Trust for letting to local people. The development's "town" image belies what is intended to become a sizeable extension to Dorchester, providing 2,500 homes at prices from £58,000 to £140,000.

Poundbury's origins date to 1987 when West Dorset District Council designated 400 acres of Duchy of Cornwall land for development. Leon Krier, an architect and urban planner, was asked to design an urban extension to Dorchester in sympathy with the style and layout of traditional West Dorset.

A boost to Poundbury's struggle for respectability came this summer when SMTech, an American owned high-tech electronics firm, became the first major business to choose to base there. The hope is that a mix of industries will follow, limiting exposure to any one sector — Poundbury has had a rough enough ride without the stigma of a corporate collapse.

When the Prince of Wales formally opened SMTech's offices, he praised West Dorset District Council for its support and said new ground had been broken in design and standards. The task now lay in creating a sense of community by bringing homes and workplaces together, he said.

Poundbury was in a much more interesting and potentially exciting position when it came to attracting new residents and businesses.

There are benefits as a whole for West Dorset, which has suffered from defence cutbacks at Portland and Weymouth. The hope is that Poundbury will act as a lure to investors, boosting local employment. SMTech

must be reeling in publicity. Owned by Cybertek Systems Corporation of Philadelphia, the company makes machines that print solder paste on to printed circuit boards. The units, which cost up to £100,000 each, are air-freighted to America and Japan. Clients include Samsung, Siemens, and Motorola, which use the technology in everything from mobile phones to laptop computers. SMTech has annual sales above £5 million.

The number of foreign visitors is growing, many from South Korea and Japan. Dignitaries are treated to splendid views of rolling fields — if marred by the sound of lorries and cement-mixers. The Prince of Wales "connection" can do no harm. There are plans to turn a central courtyard into a ceremonial Japanese garden.

David Wheatley, managing director of SMTech, was encouraged by the Duchy to move from smaller premises in Dorchester. He said: "They understood our requirement for a high-quality environment... that would impress visitors."

Improving fortunes at Poundbury are all too welcome to the Duchy. Income has swelled dramatically in recent years, fuelled by tight control of costs and a tougher stance on tenant farmers. Duchy income for 1995 amounted to £102 million. After operating costs, the surplus payable to the Prince of Wales (before tax) was £4.9 million.

The Duchy's portfolio is split between agricultural land, commercial property and stocks and shares. Holdings include more than 220 tenanted farms, about 70,000 acres of Dartmoor, and a valuable slice of London real estate, notably the Oval cricket ground in Kennington. Poundbury is a small, but visible, part of an eclectic portfolio.

Critics have been quick to condemn Poundbury — it can look bleak on a bad day, but some basic facilities such as pubs and corner shops will help. The arrival of SMTech has been a huge morale-booster and talks with other prospective business tenants are ongoing. The Prince of Wales might be back cutting the ribbon sooner than he anticipated.



The Prince of Wales, left, touring Poundbury in 1994

Time for independent review of Ofgas arrangements

From Mr H. Nicholas Sturcke
Sir, There appears to be need for an urgent review of the workings of Ofgas. The further delay in the announcement of its final price control proposals, coupled with the appointment of yet another consultant, SBC Warburg, has, as perhaps implied in your *Tempos* column (July 23), raised questions on the efficiency with which Ofgas operates, particularly in the light of the continuing need to limit public expenditure. Ofgas has been operating as

a gas industry specialist for at least ten years. However, it still appears to have so little of its own expertise that not only does it continue to require the extensive and no doubt not inexpensive use of consultants, it also seems unable to appraise the advice provided to it to develop defensible proposals in its mainstream regulatory activity. It is ironic that the intention of Ofgas is to improve the efficiency of British Gas while operating so haphazardly itself.

There seems, therefore, to be an urgent need for an independent review of the workings and funding of Ofgas: even gas consumers might prefer a reallocation of funds to more deserving effectively run services. Perhaps the first step should be to link movements in the Ofgas budget with the movement of future affordable British Gas dividends.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS STURCKE,
Romford House,
Kings Toll Road,
Pembury,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

India's cinema

From Mr Robert Hardcastle
Sir, I cannot speak for Canada, but when Eric Regus says that cinema advertising is virtually "non-existent" in India, he is badly misinformed (Carlton pays £58m for Cinema Media, July 23).

By the 1950s, during which time I worked with a British advertising agency in that country, cinema was already well established as the prime medium — much more effective than press advertising or posters when reaching out to the largely illiterate mass market. It remains a powerful force to this day.

Among the many talented visualisers and artists employed by my company was a young man, Manek Roy. He became better known as Satyajit Ray, the celebrated film director, who was always quick to acknowledge his debt to his early training in making cinema advertising films.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARDCASTLE,
Lawn Cottage, Camden Park,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Chance of a quick payout to be equalled only by 50 years of mutual bounty

From Mr Michael Hardern
Sir, Mutuality might seem better than conversion to Matthew Roberts (Letters, July 18) but for 75 per cent of members it will take at least 50 years of mutual bounty to equal the likely cash or shares windfall.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, calculates that plc dividends will cost borrowers and savers 0.5 per cent

between them. Three quarters of savers have less than the average £5,000 investment. Their expected windfall would be about £1,250 from most societies — yes, even, the tiddlers.

Economics, common sense and fairness dictate that most members would be crazy not to vote for a windfall. Meanwhile, Nationwide and Britan-

nia are giving one third of their profits — the same as they would distribute in dividends as a plc — mostly to their biggest savers and borrowers without even consulting their memberships.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HARDERN
(Founder co-ordinator,
Members for Conversion,
3 Rathbone Street, W1).

75 Cannon Street EC4 & 120 Old Broad Street EC2

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FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN KALGOORLIE

The Native Title Act was introduced in 1992 as part of Australia's Mabo legislation to enshrine the rights of indigenous people over historic land.

Addressing the annual Diggers and Dealers goold conference in Kalgoorlie, Ron Manners, chairman of Croesus Mining, said: "Without some prompt action from Parliament, all Australians will be poorer as a result of Australia's mineral exploration dollars going elsewhere."

The outburst came amid growing fears among the mining community that local aboriginal communities will use the Native Title Act to block exploration and development.

Robert Champion de Crespigny, chairman of Normandy Mining, told the Kalgoorlie conference yesterday: "The legislation at the moment is totally unsatisfactory, not just to the mining community but to aboriginals as well."

Robert French, president of the Native Title Tribunal, told the mining community yesterday that they had to be pragmatic about the legislation.



By CAROLINE MERRELL

Sony do

oubles fir

Sony remained cautious on the outlook for the full year, sticking to its forecast of net profits of ¥95 billion (\$887 million) on sales of ¥5 trillion (\$46.7 billion). This would leave profits up 75 per cent on the previous year, while sales would be nine per cent higher.

The company said it was looking to expand in America through the purchase of another general insurer. Mr Robins said that it intended to spend in the region of £333 million on a purchase.

THE Department of Trade and Industry has applied to have Stephen Hinchliffe, the entrepreneur and founder of Facia, the collapsed high street retail group, to be disqualified under Section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986. Today's proceedings at the district court in Newcastle upon Tyne also involve Christopher Harrison, a fellow Facia director, and centre on the collapse two years ago of Boxgrove, a company formerly known as En-Tout-Cas.

SHARES in J&J Dyson, the Sheffield-based refractories supplier and building-materials company, jumped 12p to 215p on a better-than-expected pre-tax profit of £2.88 million for the year ending March 31, up 20 per cent from £2.39 million previously. Turnover was £55.6 million (£50.1 million). A final dividend of 3p will be paid on October 1, making a full-year dividend of 4.5p, up from 4p previously. The company's said trading had picked up in the final quarter.

A THIRD Taiwanese company is to open a plant in Scotland's old steel belt, creating 200 jobs. The announcement yesterday of the £12 million components plant in Mossend, Lanarkshire, for the Allied Precision Company (UK) comes only weeks after Lite-On Technology, another Taiwan firm, announced plans for a computer monitor plant with more than 1,000 jobs. In November, Chunghua Picture Tubes of Taiwan said it would build a £260 million plant at Mossend.

BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES, the tenth-largest building society, announced a 14 per cent rise in interim operating profit to £34.3 million and an 18 per cent reduction in provisions for bad debts to £1.8 million. Including an exceptional loss of £1.6 million last year, pre-tax profit rose 20 per cent in the six months to £34.3 million from £28.6 million in the same period of 1995. The society expects house prices to rise by two to four per cent by the end of the year.

PRECOAT INTERNATIONAL, the UK's largest manufacturer of pre-coated steel, lifted pre-tax profits 34 per cent to £3.05 million and earnings 21 per cent to 14.7p per share during the year to April 30. The group, which generates 20 per cent of sales from Canada, said anticipated sluggish home demand could affect trading. A final dividend of 3.3p, due on October 1, makes a total of 5.5p (4.5sp). The shares, placed at 125p in April 1995, eased 20 to 192p.

ROBERT BRUCE

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]



■ FILM 1

Convincing fantasy for adults and kids alike, in the big screen adaptation of *James and the Giant Peach*



■ FILM 2

... but a new lease of life for the world's most famous dolphin looks pretty limp in *Flipper*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

The Barbican offers a fascinating trawl through the vaults of Hammer Films, home to *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*



■ FILM 4

The re-release of the Coen brothers' first feature, *Blood Simple*, puts newer independent to shame

CINEMA: Geoff Brown finds that sour-sweet Dahl is more to his taste than drippy eco-drama

Unreal dolphin, surreal fruit

How do you like your family entertainment, bland or tasty? This week you have a choice. In *Flipper* an animatronic dolphin does everything but wink as it helps a teenager to realise that there is more to life than sulking behind dark glasses. In *James and the Giant Peach*, based on Roald Dahl's first book for children, a mistreated orphan escapes from his nasty and greedy aunts by venturing inside a giant peach and journeying to the New World with the insects embedded within. One film limps along with staid adventures seen many times before, the other serves up surreal fantasy dazzling enough to lure adults as well as children. No prizes for guessing which is which.

James and the Giant Peach was put into production by director Henry Selick and co-producers Tim Burton and Denise Di Novi, the team responsible for *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. There are live-action scenes at the front and the rear, while the large chunk in the middle uses stop-motion puppet animation with exceptional finesse. But where *Nightmare* insisted too loudly on the ghoulish nightmare dreamt up by Tim Burton, Selick transfers Dahl's imaginings from page to screen with an agreeable, nonchalant flourish.

The live-action introduction lures us into an unpredictable, highly stylised world ringed about with menace and vaguely set in the 1940s. After a rambling rhino gobbles his parents, happy child James (a lively Paul Terry) is packed off to live with two rapacious aunts (scenery-chewing Miriam Margulies and Joanna Lumley). Salvation arrives with a magic bag of crocodile tongues that brings a dead peach tree to life. Once James crawls into the outside fruit, animation takes over: how else could you dress a grasshopper in a monocle, morning coat and cane, or depict a peach being carried across the Atlantic by a flock of seagulls?

Dahl's book has no strong dramatic line: it jumps from curious event to event like any story improvised night after night at a child's bedside. Selick's cohorts had problems manufacturing a workable script — an early treatment by Dennis Porter was rejected for straying too far from the source. But the peach's inhabitants provide a jolly vaudeville show, and invented episodes such as the battle with a shipful of skeleton pirates add welcome punch and variety.

Among the voices, David Thewlis's distinctively lugubrious tones make a perfect fit for the pessimistic Glow-worm, and Richard Dreyfuss's bumptious squawk suits the wisecracking Centipede, cigar permanently clamped between his teeth. Who, though, would recognise Susan Sarandon as the voice of the Spider, whose birthplace seems to be deepest Russia?

Along the way there are songs by Randy Newman,



James and the Giant Peach: Roald Dahl's story has now been turned into a "surreal fantasy dazzling enough to lure adults as well as children"

unmemorable melodically but used to bolster the story and to underline the gentle points being made about the need for love and accepting each other. Despite some softening of Dahl's macabre wit — the film, after all, is a Disney presentation — readers who have taken the book to their hearts should not be disappointed. Those who have not will be able to revel in the technical dexterity and the delight of voyaging where no film has gone before.

Now, who is this? He washes dishes by swishing them around in the shower with his foot. He prides open a coconut with two thumbs from two fingers. To toast bread, he flings slices at hooks attached to the wall, then brings out the blowtorch.

He is not the title character in *Flipper*, the dolphin which some may recall from the Hollywood films and television series produced 30 years ago by Ivan Tors. Nor is he Elijah Wood, the sullen clyd teenager who unbends through exposure to nature's marvels in the islands off Key West. No, the answer is *Crocodile Dundee* star Paul Hogan, cast as the uncle who gives his 14-year-old charge the summer holiday of a lifetime, and the only participant to add salt and pepper to a family movie that may keep children quietly occupied but is painfully low in flavour.

In reviving a property from the 1960s, Alan Shapiro, the film's writer and director, has paid some attention to modern times. Out goes childhood innocence, in come teenage attitude, separated parents

James and the Giant Peach
Odeon West End, U, 79 mins
Excellent version of Roald Dahl's book

Flipper
Plaza, PG, 95 mins
The Stories dolphin returns but does not make waves

La Règle du Jeu
Riverside Studios, PG, 110 mins
Jean Renoir's masterpiece revived

Blood Simple
Virgin Haymarket, 18, 99 mins
The Coen brothers' first film

Hammer at the Barbican
Barbican Cinema
Month-long trawl through the Hammer vaults

and lurid T-shirts. Ecological issues raise their heads too. Before, *Flipper* wiggled his fins at escaped convicts, ignorant fishermen and others unmoved by his charms. Now the enemy is toxic waste, dumped in the sea by a particularly lame plot by abating his guns and rendering *Flipper* an orphan.

Hogan's quirky presence aside, none of the contemporary elements help this new *Flipper* to leap into life. Certainly not Elijah Wood. After

earning a reputation as one of Hollywood's most sensitive child actors, he has now hit the rocks of adolescence. The eyes are hidden behind sunglasses. He scarcely smiles. He seems at a loss too old to put a dolphin without embarrassment, too young and tidy to act the teenage rebel.

Flipper himself makes his comeback with all the benefits of modern technology. If the script demands exploits beyond the skills of trained mammals, an animatronic stand-in is switched on to fight with a shark, beam with delight or otherwise act cute. Technically *Flipper* glides along nicely with accomplished undersea camerawork from Bill Butler, who photographed *Jaws*. But the poverty of its imagination is depressing.

With good new releases thin on the ground during the summer, this is the time that distributors bring out their revivals. In terms of quality, Jean Renoir's *La Règle du Jeu*, 57 years old, outshines any film currently playing. Indeed, this portrait of life and loves upstairs and downstairs at a French country house is one of cinema's masterpieces.

And the current crop of American independents begin to look puny placed next to *Blood Simple*, the Coen brothers' first feature, now 13 years old, a self-conscious child of the film noir thrillers of the 1940s mounted with cold-blooded verve.

But the most fascinating excursion into the past is the Barbican's month-long trawl through the vaults of Hammer Films, famous home to

Dracula, *Frankenstein*, zombies and strangles of Bombay. The horrors depicted may seem tame next to the gore overflowing from modern movies, but in the 1950s the print 'British Establishment' threw up its hands at the pickled organs in *Frankenstein's* laboratory, or fangs drawing blood from a damsel's neck in lurid Eastman Colour.

Audiences thought differently. They were tired of enduring piffing Rank comedies or watching Jack Hawkins fight the Second World War in films coloured battleship grey. *The Curse of Frankenstein* and its many successors gave British cinema just the kick in the pants it needed. It took longer for critics to come round, but by the 1970s thoughtful types were finding hidden treasure and belatedly placing laurels on the head of director Terence Fisher.

Apart from the delight of seeing Fisher's *Dracula* and *The Curse of Frankenstein* again, the season usefully reminds us that Hammer was never just the house of horror. They filmed humble spin-offs from radio shows such as *Life With the Lyons* and *The Adventures of P.C. 49*. With the *Quatermass* movies they made some of the best British sci-fi of the 1950s. They made terse, location-based crime dramas such as *Hell is a City* (the city is Manchester, which duly complained). Raquel Welch stripped down to her fur bikini in *One Million Years BC*. And there were adorable follies such as *The Lost Continent* and *Slave*

Girls — two films directed by Michael Carreras that no lover of bad movies should ignore. With the demise of many repertory cinemas in Britain, there are scant chances now to see such material where it belongs, on the big screen. But at the Barbican, this summer, the chance arrives.

A motive in the making

RADIO: Peter Barnard finds a postponed play about murder in the family compelling listening

The media is extremely sensitive to the relationship between real and fictional events. By way of proof, an outstanding play turned up on Radio 4 this week, four months late. The Monday Play slot consistently produces quality drama, and this month it has lengthened its title to take in *Five In July*, meaning a season of five contemporary works. This week's play was *Five Kinds of Silence*.

It should have gone out in March, but was withdrawn from the schedules because of the Dunblane massacre. There was no connection between the play and Dunblane, except that both involved murder, and the BBC was oversensitive to withdraw it. But I suppose the Corporation has enough critics without offering them further ammunition.

Shelagh Stevenson's play was superbly constructed. Often the use of narration, flashback, extracts from letters and the like leads to terrible confusion for the listener. No such traps here, thanks to the skill of the writing and Jeremy Morimer's excellent direction.

The play marked a welcome radio appearance by Tom Courtenay as Billy, the father murdered by his two daughters. The dramatic tension was in the examination of motives, the slow unravelling through flashback of Billy's iron rule and his own tortured childhood.

By the end there was a strong sense that Billy's murder had released him as much as it released his family, for here was a portrait of a man who had become a prisoner of his own emotional history.

Radio 3 is, of course, mainly occupied with the BBC Proms at present. These used to be called the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, but the BBC's finely-honed promotional instincts have brought an end to that.

This week the Corporation has also been running a related series of 20-minute programmes called *Lost in London*, about concert halls which have disappeared from the capital.

Andrew Green's informative series provides a salutary lesson on what can happen when we become complacent about musical venues. I was especially struck by Tuesday's instalment concerning Vauxhall Gardens, a popular venue in the 18th century.

Finally, brief mention of something yet to come: a Radio 4 series called *The Sunday Forum* starts tomorrow. It is a wickedly funny send-up of the lengths to which Sunday newspapers go to fill endless supplements. I particularly like "Measured Opinion, the page where we ask people of roughly the same height for their thoughts about a different issue each week".

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

"A MASTERPIECE OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT"
CHARLES SPENCER - THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

"AN INSTANT CLASSIC"
NEIL NORMAN - THE EVENING STANDARD

"A TRIUMPH"
CHRISTOPHER TOOMEY - THE DAILY MAIL

NOW SHOWING
AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

'I'd even go and see it with my mates'

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH
Matt Jones, 22: This is superb family entertainment, produced with great flair and panache. It's quite wonderful to look at, and the star names who do the voices complement Dahl's characters marvelously. I would recommend just about anybody to go and see it.

Rachel Jones, 19: This is

visually stunning and more accessible than *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. I thought it was clever, witty and inventive and, except for one weak song early on, it's almost perfect family fare.

Ben Wright, 21: This was excellent, and I'd even go and see it with my mates. I was always a big fan of Roald Dahl and here at last is an adaptation that does his work justice.

Naomi Smith, 20: I loved this,



and I will definitely be going to see it again and again and again. In fact, I didn't particularly like the music, but that still wasn't enough to put me off.

FLIPPER
Matt: The sentiment is laid on thicker than Barbara Cartland's foundation cream. Considering that it is so mind-blowingly formulaic and daft, you ultimately feel somewhat ashamed for getting so emotionally caught up in all this tosh.

Rachel: This is typical American goodies-versus-baddies stuff, but not the spectacular mess one would expect. It should go down well with kids, although it never looks

remotely likely to win any awards for quality.

Ben: Awful, awful, awful. This was just really cheesy and standard American pap. Maybe children will like this, but then they should be seeing a class act like *James and the Giant Peach*.

Naomi: Not as bad as I expected, but I would have liked to compare it to the TV series. As far as slushy animal films go this was better than average.

Our small screen has made the big screen.

Our in-flight entertainment system didn't have to audition to star in Mission: Impossible, which was a screaming truth.

BEST OVERALL INFLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT AWARD 1995/96

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CHOICE 1

Rozhdensky opens a Bruckner celebration at the Proms

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall

CHOICE 2

Veteran rhythm and blues from Alan Price at the Hull Festival

VENUE: Tonight at Princes Quay Shopping Centre

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

An evening of jazz with Humphrey Lyttelton and his Band

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Hall, Harrogate

VIDEOS

Claude Chabrol's best film in years, the Ruth Rendell adaptation *La Ceremonie*, is released on video

Jack in to a neuromantic hero

NEW ON VIDEO

JOHNNY MNEMONIC

Fox Guild, 15, 1995

THE Yakuza, poor fellows, want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Reeves resists, though he could implode if he does not download the 330 Gbytes of data planted inside. Laughing at this futuristic folly is the viewer's best path to entertainment. Reeves shows no emotion; the script, inspired by cyberpunk author William Gibson, is dreadful; and the director, American conceptual artist Robert Longo, appears too in love with the visual design to give his actors guidance. Available to rent.

LA CEREMONIE

Tartan, 15, 1995

VETERAN French director Claude Chabrol's best film in years: a darkly comic version of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement in Stone*, updated and transferred to a windswept Brittany. Sandrine Bonnaire is the secretive housemaid whose position as the perfect help is undermined when she makes friends with the insolent village postmistress (Isabelle Huppert). Chabrol delights in the drama's class distinctions, though he is careful not to categorise any side as villain or victim; his even-handed approach makes the violent climax all the more shocking. With Jacqueline Bisset and Jean-Pierre Cassel.

KASPAR HAUSER

Arrow, 15, 1993

WERNER HERZOG told Kaspar's bizarre story in his 1974 classic *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser*. Peter Seher's film plods by comparison, though the historical detail is fascinating, and we soon get pulled into the power games played by princes and dukes over this rumoured heir to the Baden throne, used as a pawn in 19th-century German politics. André



Brain drain: Keanu Reeves downloads his brain in Robert Longo's futuristic cyberfolly, *Johnny Mnemonic*

Eisemann gives an effective performance as the youth found catatonic in a Nuremberg square.

RENDEZVOUS IN PARIS

Artisan, 15, 1995

THREE tales of love and chance from France's veteran chronicler of young love, Eric Rohmer, with natural performances from a cast of unknowns. The last segment, a hesitation waltz between a painter, a Swedish visitor and a woman encountered at the Picasso

museum, is especially delicious. There are greater Rohmer films, but few other directors working now show such sensitivity to people and places, and such pleasant obliviousness to fashion.

WAITING TO EXHALE

Fox Guild, 15, 1995

POPULIST comedy-drama about black women whose lives are devoted to talking about sex, having it and visiting the beauty parlour. The film,

based on Terry McMillan's novel, no doubt began with higher ambitions than magazine fiction to be read under the hair dryer but its development is so bold and the colours so glossy that magazine fiction is the result. Actor Forest Whitaker directed, though the names that matter are Angela Bassett (giving the only meaty performance) and Whitney Houston. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Poulenc on parade; maturing Canadian tenor; echoes in the chamber

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

POULENC

Concerto for Two Pianos

Aubade: Sinfonietta

Pommier/Quelbecq/City of

*Virgin 5 45028 2-**

THE tendency of Poulenc's music to advance in two-bar phrases created difficulties for the composer in developing large-scale, organic structures. It was a problem he never entirely solved, but in the delightful *Aubade* of 1929 for piano and 18 instruments he managed to obviate it by providing a programme that could be acted out by dancers. The programme, concerning the goddess Diana and her raging, forbidden love, allows Poulenc to put some of his most winning melodies and bittersweet harmonies to effective use, while discontinuities and sudden changes of direction can be made to serve an illustrative purpose. Jean Bernard Pommier de-

livers the solo part with an aptly glassy brilliance, as he does the slightly later *Concerto for Two Pianos*, where he is partnered by an equally fleet Anne Queffelec.

The final work on this attractive disc is the *Sinfonietta*, a brazen rip-off of the composer's own *Organ Concerto* from a few years before. But never mind: in its cheeky good humour and undertow of melancholy it can scarcely fail to give pleasure, especially in a performance as sympathetic as this one by the City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox.

It is the voice for a Manrico or the Pollicione of Bellini's *Norma*. The choicest items on this disc from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation are those which allow the tenor to show off his strength and declamatory powers. Giordano provided the wherewithal in *Andrea Chénier* and Clea more sporadically in *Adriana Lecouvreur*. With these composers Margison is on home territory.

When lyricism is required, he becomes less happy. Faust's *Du camp* from Boito's *Mefistofele* needs more silk and so does Massenet's *Werther*, although both are roles he has sung on stage. The singing becomes less relentless and possibly this is why CBC have broken up a recital with a handful of

orchestral pieces. The Canadian Opera Players under Richard Bradshaw show up better in these than as accompanists. CBC, too, deserve to lose another star for a shoddy booklet in which half the pages are blank.

While the Arts play homage to Schubert as song composer in the D804 *Rosamunde* Quartet, it is the Mosquitos, not surprisingly, who take us straight into a *Winterreise* of dragging feet and aching heart in its first movement. Their *Rosamunde* variations are austere and melancholy, where the Arts keep the mood light and elegant, with string barely touching bow. By omitting repeats, the Arts also make room for the C minor Quartets.

Each recording has its own beauty. For me, the Quatuor Mosquitos have the cutting edge, but that is entirely a matter of personal taste, and both versions are strongly recommended.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

SCHUBERT

Quatuor Mosquitos

*Astree E 8580****

Artis Quartet

*Sony SK 66720****

THIS almost simultaneous release of two of Schubert's greatest string quartets offers an irresistible exercise in compare and contrast. The opening of the earlier E flat major Quartet D87 sees the Austrian Artis Quartet providing smoother, silkier ensemble than the Quatuor Mosquitos, more instinctive and less intense in their points of articulation and contrast. They bring an infectious *joie de*

vivre to the Scherzo, too, though the Mosquitos are more searching in the Trio, and their hushed, almost vibrato-free balance of voices in the slow movement is uniquely revealing.

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LONDON

BBC PROMS 96 Bruckner's expansive Second Symphony opens the Proms celebration of the composer's centenary. Conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy, the BBC Symphony Orchestra in this and his own suite *Deux Solos* drawn from film music by Alfred Schnittke. Rozhdensky's wife, the pianist Victoria Ponomareva, joins the orchestra for Stravinsky's *Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra*.

Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 0171-585 8215. Tonight, 7.30pm.

OFF THE HOOK The actors and directors of the Royal Shakespeare Company continue to be in 'Off the Hook' to devote a series of innovative platform events. This evening's programme includes Samuel Beckett's *That Time* (7pm). See *Base of Can* (7.30pm) devised by Andrew Macdonald, and *David McCullough's A Play About a Chair* (8.30pm). Until Saturday.

Young Vic Studio, 66 The Oval, SE1 0171-928 3350. Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE RED BALLOON American Clark's subtle and entrancing stage version of the classic 1950s French film. Already seen in Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham, it now comes floating into London. Run: Murchison creates a lovely set.

National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 0171-928 2252. Opens today, 2.15pm. Then in rep with *A Little Night Music*, performances at 10.30am, 2.15pm & 7.30pm.

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■ SNAPSHOT

Day Four of our series on top tourist attractions takes a walk through the historic stones of Westminster Abbey

■ THEATRE 1

Leo McKern gives a fine performance as a tipsy snapper in Chichester's revival of *When We Are Married*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

Alan Ford's satire of a professional ham, *Thin Ice*, leaves a sour taste in the mouth

■ PROM

Music director Mark Wigglesworth brings the BBC National Orchestra of Wales to the Proms

Marcus Binney finds power and glory — and even humour — on show at Westminster Abbey

History tour by time machine



First impressions count. At 9.30 on a Friday morning, I and every other visitor to Westminster Abbey received a royal welcome. The main west doors were wide open, the inner glass doors folded back and fresh air and light flooded into the nave.

There are no ticket barriers inside the entrance, only an invitation to contribute £1. You can in fact explore the nave without paying at all, but I chose the sound guide, a tape with headphones, which for £5 included admission to the Royal Chapel, and the Confessor's Shrine. It was worth every penny.

This was no dry-as-dust lecture on pointed arches, but a stirring walk through British history, with snatches of good music and resonant prose, and, of course, the gory details which tourists down the ages have always relished.

The tour begins at the grave of the Unknown Warrior, a project which caught the imagination of a war-torn world. The body of the unknown soldier was buried here in 1920 in soil brought from France in the presence of the King and four Queens, (Queen Mary, Queen Alexandra, and the Queens of Spain and Norway) with a guard of honour of a hundred VCs.

Next came the first of many touches of humour: the story of the 17th-century dean who teased Ben Jonson about a place in Poet's Corner. "Two feet by two feet is enough for me," replied the impoverished dramatist. "You shall have it," replied the dean — and Jonson was buried standing up.

The vergers at the abbey are well versed in dealing with us zombies. "You can slip past this group on the left," one whispered helpfully in my ear. A moment later, a solemn voice boomed out, announcing that every hour on the hour a priest would ascend the pulpit and invite us all to join in a brief prayer. Looking at the surging crowds, I wondered how I would find my way back to the nave in time. I need not have worried.

Every group in the abbey is getting a history lesson of their



On the abbey road: visitors queue up to visit one of the capital's most rewarding attractions, a fascinating journey through the nation's past

own. I listened in on a party from New England, led by a dapper grey-suited guide. This was strong republican stuff. "John and Sam Adams came from a family in Somerset that supported Cromwell against the King. Monmouth against the King. They fought the King in 1776 and supported Lincoln in 1861." He continued: "Oliver Cromwell bought a one-way ticket to Massachusetts but the King refused him permission to sail. That has to be the dumbest move in British history. He might have spent the rest of his life quietly farming."

Turning on the sound guide, the emotion and excitement of the Queen's Coronation came alive with the words of Archbishop Fisher. I was told how the transepts were filled with tier on tier of seats for spectators who had to spend many

hours in the abbey. What they discreetly omitted to mention were the large number of gin bottles found afterwards under the seats, left by members of the House of Lords. I learnt that while Henry VII had demanded a funeral free of "damnable pomp and outrageous magnificence", Cromwell had had it all, crown on head, sceptre and globe in hand, his body carried on an open coach adorned with plumes and banners. "Two years later his body had been dug up by outraged Royalists, dragged to Tyburn, decapitated, and his head displayed on a spike."

Arriving at the Coronation Chair, I was not the only one wanting to see if the Stone of Scone was still in place beneath the seat. Quite what are the "elaborate precautions for its safety" made following its

theft in 1950 is a mystery. Does the floor open up to swallow intruders?

On the Confessor's tomb, my eyes were directed to the recesses for the sick to kneel and ask for the saint's intercession. I learnt of the golden cross and chain, discovered by Charles Taylor, "one of the singing men", after James II's Coronation. Espying a hole in the tomb, he put his hand in, pulled out the chain and then saw the saint's head "sound and firm, the upper and the lower jaws full of teeth". James II had the old coffin enclosed in the new one clamped with iron and it has remained undisturbed to this day.

In Poet's Corner I heard why Byron's monument was so late in coming (his damnable aristocratic flippancy); heard Alan Bennett read from *Alice in Wonderland*, with a

solo from Handel's *Messiah* providing the finale. I could have listened to it all again.

For a further charge of £2.50 I gained admission to the chapter house, the Pyx chamber and the museum. This seemed a little steep, until the two ladies in the Pyx chamber explained with great gusto how the six locks, introduced after a burglary of 1303, operated, even producing a key.

In the museum, I found the second Coronation Chair made for the joint crowning of William III and Mary II, every bit as covered in graffiti as the original.

One remarkable exhibit was the wax effigy of the Duke of Buckingham, who died in Rome at the age of 19. Wax casts were taken of his face and hands before his body was shipped to Britain. The effigy is displayed in the

original glass case ordered by his mother.

To get the most out of the abbey and its numerous monuments and memorials, you need a second tour, official guidebook in hand. This will lead you to such curiosities as the tomb of Marshal Wade, famous for the Highland Roads he built after the '45 rebellion. "If you'd seen these roads before they were made/You would hold up your hands and bless Marshal Wade," runs the epitaph.

I left the abbey feeling I had had more than the Benedictine welcome promised by the dean. Rather an enthralling morning that every great building can and should provide for all its visitors.

Tomorrow: A Summer Snapshot of Blackpool Tower

Packed chamber

IN THE first of two consecutive concerts this week, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales was conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, in his first Prom appearance since becoming their music director. His programme offered one of his favoured calling-cards in Schoenberg's first Chamber Symphony, but in the second of the full-orchestra versions the composer made in 1935.

By enriching the work not just with extra instruments but with added harmonies and melodic lines, he inevitably risked making its density of texture sound congested, but it was to the conductor's credit that he exercised a masterful control in giving the

BBC NOW/
Wigglesworth
Albert Hall/Radio 3

work's outlines a welcome clarity of musical purpose. His players responded with a wealth of contrasting timbre that made the taut design spacious as well as eloquent.

It was preceded by a suite from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* that began with chunks from Act III, including a lilting Dance of the Apprentices and a resplendent Entry of the Masters, then disconcertingly reverted to the Prelude from Act I as a somewhat incongruous but stately and jubilant finale. It enabled the orchestra to display its warmth of string tone, keenly edged woodwind and opulent brass.

They were joined in the second part by Stephen Hough as a buoyant soloist in Brahms's big-scale B-flat major Piano Concerto (No 2). Brisk tempos brought the performing time to under 45 minutes, a welcome reversion to an earlier tradition in place of the monumental approach latterly favoured. It displayed, in particular, the pianist's sturdy yet poetic figuration.

Only the romantic cello solo in the *Andante* movement seemed unduly reticent. Otherwise the orchestral content was effectively measured to the soloist's brio, not excluding a poignant sense of reverie when desired and leading to a light-hearted but still serious-minded final rondo.

NOEL GOODWIN

THEATRE: Playful Priestley takes on the arrogance of respectability; plus a sour evening with a cracked actor

Picking the rusty wedlock

When We Are Married
Chichester

Jude Kelly's revival of J. B. Priestley's Yorkshire farce has lit up and down, but its first night opened with a nice, pointed trick. There was a long pompous rumble from some offstage drums, and several members of the audience leapt obediently to their feet. They wore the same glazed, brainwashed look I recall on the face of the all-American guy in *The Manchurian Candidate* who had only to see a particular playing card to become a deadly assassin. They were primed to stand to attention for *God Save the Queen* — and instead they found themselves looking rather fatuous as brass joined percussion in a forthright rendering of *On Ilkley Moor Bate 'At*.

What better introduction could there be to a play that may be seen as a comic version of Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* II, too, attacks respectability, arrogance and complacency, but in mischievous and sometimes hilarious style. It gets the likes of Dawn French's Clara Soppitt to leave herself self-importantly upright, so to speak, and then makes her look as silly as a royalist quivering to a jolly song about Yorkshire mating habits.

Clara is the most formidable of the three wives and three husbands who have come

together to celebrate their silver wedding anniversaries. Her husband, Paul Copley's Herbert, cowers when she eyeballs him and, hands on massive hips, emits her trademark snarls and roars. But the other marriages have their imperfections, too. Roger Lloyd Pack's fungoid-faced Councilor Parker bullies and bores his wife, Annette Badland's Annie, and Gary Waldhorn's smooth, self-satisfied Alderman Helliwell is pretty offhand to his better half, Alison Steadman's Maria.

At first you think that conventional married angst will prevail until these people's golden jubilees and beyond. Everything seems awesomely permanent and solid, from the Helliwells' plush gold-and-maroon drawing room to dresses that make the ladies look like brocade sofas. But the young choristers, the three men are ticking off for some minor moral indiscretion has embarrassing evi-



Unwedded bliss in Yorkshire: McKern, Chadwick, Lloyd Pack, French and Bryan

dence in his pocket: a letter from the cleric who presided over their joint weddings admitting he was not yet qualified for the job. These pillars of the local chapel and commun-

ity appear to have been living in sin for 25 years.

Desperate attempts to cover up the painful facts duly fail. Home truths emerge, emotional adjustments are made.

Worms turn, most entertainingly in the case of the Soppitts. That is because French is magnificently menacing, whether she is prowling about like a killer-rhino, or

bunching her face and glowering like an Amazon warning up for battle, or advancing on her husband like a blend of Texas gunlinger and sumo wrestler. However, the scene in which Parker smugly informs his wife he will remarry her, and she counters by wondering if she wants to go on living with so dreary a skinflint, can be more wittily played and funnier than it is here.

Kelly's production tends to opt for the broad rather than the sly, telling detail, which is a pity. But she recognises that Priestley often wrote excellent supporting roles. Dora Bryan twitters in wonderfully batty glee from below a preposterous grey-frizz wig as the char who rumbles her employers' scandalous secret, and Leo McKern is more memorable still as Ormonroyd, the tipsy cameraman come to record his social betters' celebrations. He trundles his portly, rumpled frame about the stage in slow motion, and his voice becomes a grandiose blur, with vowels rising to the surface like bubbles in a fermenting must. You won't see the solemnity of the very drunk better played anywhere.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A bad day's night in luvviedom

Thin Ice
Old Red Lion, NI

Charlie struggles into his underpants and stumbles to the bathroom. Massaging his sagging ego, he pats his solar plexus and promptly

chucks up in the basin. It is mostly downhill from here. The traffic is at a crawl round smelly King's Cross. One cab driver waves gratefully before Charlie's red Cortina is unceremoniously written off on Essex Road. Bolstered by vague recognition from the plects at

the bus stop, Charlie is unfortunately soon spotted by a raving mad old flame. She pursues him, screaming blue murder, on to a jam-packed double-decker.

Charlie is next found playing it cool, an old hand, in a mass audition

for a commercial. He is, surely, on the verge of making a packet if he can just look straight into the camera and crush an ice-cream cone into his face. His chance of glory, however, comes to a sticky end as a fellow actor loses his rag and wrecks havoc.

Ford obviously knows Charlie's grungy terrain like the back of his hand. His satire of a professional ham, clearly going to the dogs while still fancying himself as a flash

geezzer, does have farcical high points. The scenario might make a sitcom. But this bit of rough's four-letter expletives and his risible but also unpleasantly graphic exploits would hardly make family viewing. Charlie's covert bigotry, even if a scud-up, does not seem very amusing. Ford's friends and fans were hooting with laughter, clearly recognising the horrors of the butt end of showbiz. Personally, it left me feeling bleak. Ford's comedy leaves a sour taste in the mouth.

KATE BASSETT

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THE TIMES
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Transcending time: Michael Ignatieff admires the vision of a master storyteller, whose work is the product of a vanished world

Vladimir Nabokov's writing transforms the most ordinary thing. Take the telegraph poles he remembered seeing from the corridor window of the Nord Express, between St. Petersburg and Paris in August 1909. In *First Love*, a story which was to figure in his memoir *Invitation to a Beheading*, "six thin black telegraph wires were doing their best to ascend skyward, despite the lightning blows dealt them by one telegraph pole after another". Since *Speak Memory*, it's impossible for me to look at wires from a train without remarking on the "pathetic elation" with which they reach up, only to be flattened by the "particularly vicious blow" of an on-coming pole.

Nabokov's metaphors were not always as sharp as this. This collection, edited and translated by his son, brings together all 66 of his stories, from the callow and precocious *Wood Sprite*, published in 1921 in a Berlin émigré magazine, while Nabokov was still an undergraduate at Trinity, Cam-

bridge, to the icy *Lance* published in *The New Yorker* when Nabokov's self transformation into the imperious magician of *Invitation to a Beheading* was complete. It is reassuring to discover that the magic did not come naturally.

The early stories do reveal a gift for melancholy: "I was pensively penning the outline of the inkstand's circular, quivering shadow," is how the first of his stories begins. But the gift might well have been wasted in an imagination less determined than his own. Take those telegraph

The Russian fire that never pales

THE STORIES OF
VLADIMIR NABOKOV
Edited by Dmitri Nabokov
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25
ISBN 0 297 81722 1



Connoisseur of the male psyche: Sue Lyon in the cinema adaptation of Nabokov's *Lolita* (1962)

poles once again. In *A Matter of Chance*, the poles merely "flew past" the train window. This is limp stuff compared to the wonderful image of the poles smiting

the wires back down like some bad-tempered disciplinarian. Throughout the collection, a reader can watch the images becoming more exact, the sentiment becoming

more disciplined and the humour becoming spiced with devilry. Nabokov's comic gifts grow as he masters the lush sentiment of

the early stories and discovers that tears are more effective when cut with laughter. In *The Vane Sisters*, a late story, the narrator describes Cynthia Vane with all the coldness of a butterfly collector, dwelling on the "higgledy piggledy" striation of black hairs that showed all along her pale shins through the nylon of her stockings, with the scientific distinctness of a preparation under glass.

Nabokov is a connoisseur of male sexual disgust, but he's also superb at the longing which disgusted strives to conceal. In *The Vane Sisters* the joke is ultimately on the fastidious narrator, who having regaled the reader with his superiority towards the vulgar Miss Vane turns out, when she commits suicide, to be stricken by her loss.

Like his narrators, Nabokov is sometimes too pleased with him-

self and seems unaware of the comic aspects of his own self satisfaction. It is ridiculous of him to have written in the preface to his story *Terror* that it precedes *Nausea*, with which it shares certain shades of thought, and none of that novel's fatal defects, by at least a dozen years.

Nabokov can be infuriating: reading him is like playing tennis with an opponent who beats you with a job and comes to the net to tell you he could have beaten you with a smash. But his gamesmanship with the reader and his joyful manipulation of the reader's suspension of disbelief make him a master whose work transcends his time. For the collection reminds us how much his work was the product of a vanished world: the cold-water flats, the German landladies, the dirty third-class cultures, the flea-bitten station hotels of the Russian emigration. He took this mean world, captured it in words, and in doing so escaped it forever.

While their hearts were yearning

John Grigg examines
the national spirit that kept
our home fires burning

In the introduction to his study of British society during the Great War, the American-born Gerard J. DeGroot (who has lived here for 15 years and is a history lecturer at St Andrews) defines Blighty as a place, an idea, and a set of warm, cosy emotions. He does not give the term's origin, which can be traced back to the army in India, long before the First World War.

According to the indispensable *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, it is "the Urdu Vilayat or Bilat, an adjective meaning provincial, removed at some distance, hence adopted by the military for England."

Though some today appear to feel that the country is, or should be, as remote from Continental Europe as from India, the events of our century have shown how closely linked our destiny is with the mainland, and how dangerous it is for us to attempt to stand aloof.

DeGroot's book is intended as "a reassessment of the war", but it is never at all clear how he is reassessing it, or if he has anything new to contribute in the way of interpretation, as distinct from factual detail.

Does he regard our participation in the war as just and right, or as a materialistic

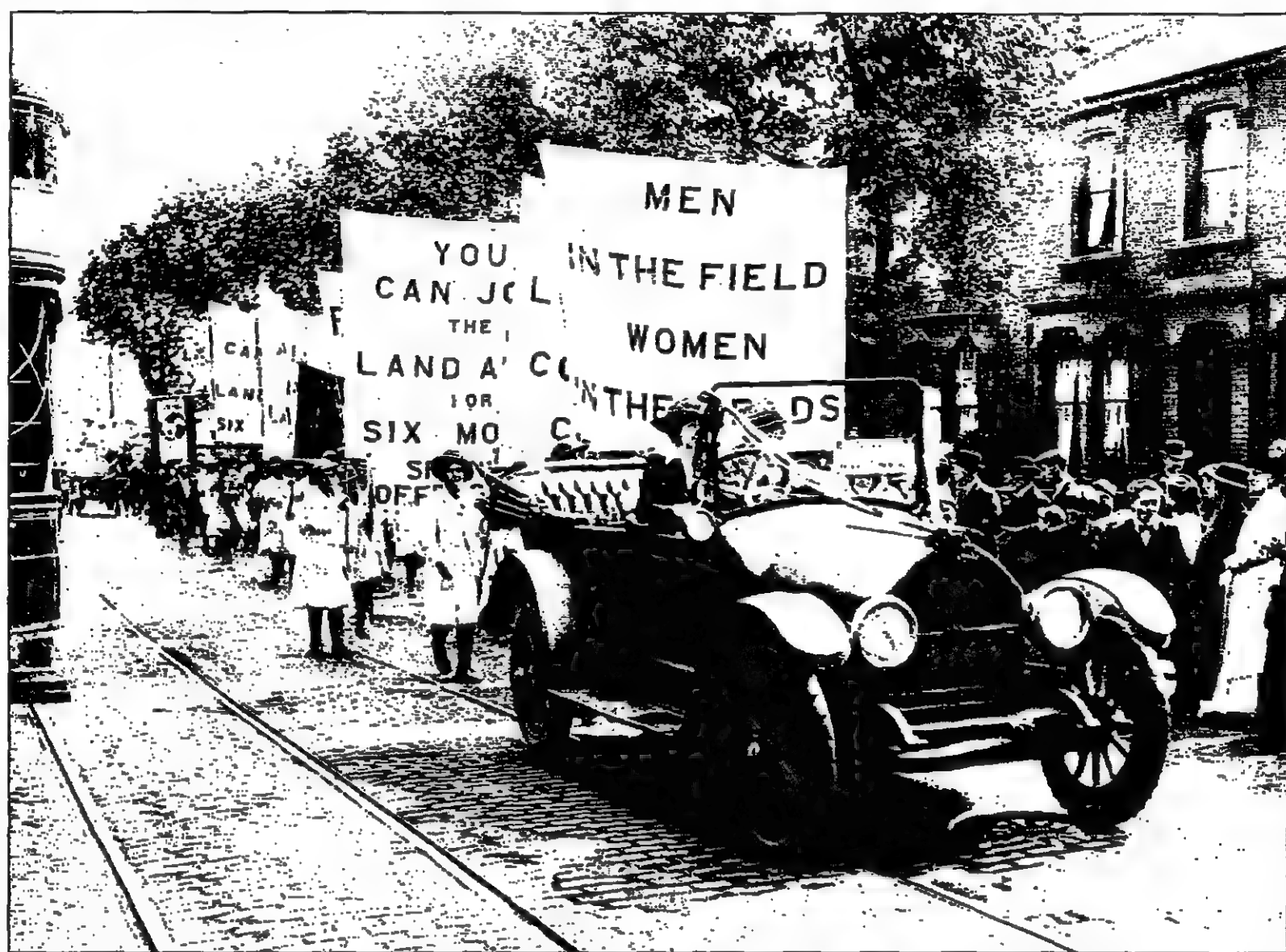
exercise masquerading as a crusade? Does he admire the British war effort with its blend of voluntarism and reluctant compulsion, or is he arguing that this made us so inefficient we were lucky to survive? On the whole he seems to take a favourable view, though with so many reservations the effect is necessarily confusing.

There are also specific contradictions in the text, which add to the general lack of focus. For instance, at one point we are told that it is "erroneous to assume" anti-German feeling was stirred by prewar books about threatened invasion,

such as *The Riddle of the Sands*; at another that "a rabid public was fired by lurid invasion stories". Lloyd George is said to have brought "a more dynamic approach to the war", but then, soon afterwards, to have been "not the radical dynamo which many have made him". (It is true that the change from Asquith to Lloyd George was, in many respects, an evolution rather than a clean break. But with all his faults Lloyd George was a dynamic war leader, both before and after he became Prime Minister.)

As a reassessment DeGroot's book is not, therefore, an outstanding success. Yet it has many merits and is well worth reading. The au-

BLIGHTY: British Society in the Era of the Great War
By Gerard J. DeGroot
Longman, £44
ISBN 0 582 06138 5



Fields of duty: a Woman's Land Army recruitment march (1918) and, below, an advertisement from *The Times* promoting the recycling of tea leaves (1914)

HOW TO BE USEFUL IN WAR TIME.

FIELDS OF PATRIOTIC ACTIVITY.

MORE SUGGESTIONS FROM READERS.

Mr. J. G. Houghton, Scoutmaster, Stoddard, Woodford Green, writes "the people of England (the better class) to save all tea leaves from all first brew, dry same, and send to some organized centre for distribution to the poor and troops in the fighting line."

Miss Edith M. Fry, organist and general secretary, writes "I have been thinking of the many who are suffering from the effects of the war, and I have decided to send them a small gift of tea leaves, which I have dried and sent them."

for distribution to the poor or the troops." Nevertheless at the front the balance of sacrifice was quite the other way: the percentage killed among the class-based officer corps was substantially higher than among other ranks.

In industry, the trade unions showed more self-denial than employers, whose excess profits were for a time a scandal. But when the taxation of these was eventually made effective, it brought in 25 per cent of total revenue, com-

pared with 4 per cent from taxes on workers' incomes. Almost in passing the author makes one comment which deserves supreme emphasis: "there was a great deal of chaos, many avoidable emergencies and some injustice caused by a reluctance to intervene. But no master plan nor great body of experience existed to guide politicians, who were pioneers in the realm of state intervention. If the British record in the Second World War seems more impressive, it is because later generations drew upon the experiences of 1914-1918."

That is the nub of the matter. As a new experience the Great War was a more remarkable achievement by the British people, and incidentally it was won in a shorter time.

Sea salt and silence

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

THE SHAPE OF CLOUDS
By Peter Benson
Sceptre, £16.99
ISBN 0 340 67203 X

A RESERVED man, who lives in a reclusive outpost of Britain's coastline, Peter Benson is at his best when describing the bare elemental world of sea and sky. In this, his seventh novel, he explores the rugged Cornish shores.

Port Juliet, "a port that never was a port", is a place which has been "shot, gutted and hung out to dry at the edge of England". The sea spills ceaselessly upon the shore, the trees keel eastwards, the wind cuts like shears and the air is tainted with salt. Sorrow and insanity haunt the land. Myths and rumours breed there, feeding and swelling on gossip and suspicion.

It is to this place that Michael, an aged mariner, comes, his life cast up like driftwood. But he has waited all his life for somewhere like this, he says, "for a house and a place at the edge of the country, and for love". He fills out his days dreaming of adventures gone by, of lost ships and vanished quays, and passions abandoned in distant ports. Benson wanders through the years of an isolated life like a beachcomber along lonely shores, perusing the flotsam of the past, shaping it into patterns and forms with his slow sculptural prose.

BUT, as in earlier novels, he hands most of his narrative to a muted speaker — to Michael, the sea captain, whose voice has been muffled by solitude. Ruminative conversations dissolve, unfinished, into the swell of unspoken thought. Shards of recovered memories glitter brightly, only to be released again, to sink slowly back into the depths of the mind.

Then into Michael's world strides Elizabeth Green, an American movie star who once made one great film, but whose career subsequently drifted into desuetude. Throughout Michael's voyaging life, she has been the idol of his fantasies and dreams. It is the development of their unlikely relationship in old age that Benson explores.

The Shape of Clouds seems in many ways an old-fashioned romance, but it is deceptive in its simplicity. Benson balances artfully between cynicism and sentimentality. In a place where "the sky is deeper than silence and deeper than love", his characters are poised between an almost Coleridgean awareness of "something ever more about to be" and a creeping regret for their shipwrecked pasts.

Benson explores the sense of loss which seeps out of the interstices between dream and memory. "Is regret a disease?" he asks. "Does distance give it strength? Can it become a pleasure? Can regret become stronger than love and overtake its reason?" As Benson answers these questions, his novel gradually shapes itself into an exquisitely crafted image of the way in which life blends the ideal and the real.

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In a wilderness and a solitary place

Karen Armstrong

HERMITS
The Insights of Solitude
By Peter France
Chattr & Windus, £16.99
ISBN 0 7011 6296

Today, in the words of Philip Larkin, we tend to believe that "all solitude is selfish". Our personal development seems entirely dependent upon our ability to form relationships and to live productively in community. The solitary, silent quest of the hermit is widely regarded as not merely an aberration but reprehensible: how can a needy world benefit from those who turn their backs upon it? Did not even the Buddha say that after enlightenment a man must come down from the mountain-top, return to the market place and practise compassion to all living beings?

Yet, as Peter France shows in this accessible book, the desire for solitude has surfaced in all cultures. There have always been those who have experienced social institutions as constricting and withdrawn from the cities and towns to become more fully themselves. But this does not mean that they became insulated from their fellow human beings. Frequently they drew others towards them like a magnet. Not only was their isolation profoundly attractive but it also gave hermits great insight into mundane affairs.

Thus hermits have traditionally given sound advice on marital and sexual problems, despite their vow of celibacy. They have counselled businessmen and politicians and their wisdom has impressed militantly atheistic philosophers. The hermits' dis-

tance from society often gave them a clearer view of its foibles. The self-knowledge they acquired in solitude yielded an uncanny insight into the workings of the human heart.

France has not attempted an exhaustive study of the heremetic life. He has concentrated on Christian hermits, starting with the Desert Fathers but also examining the great Russian Orthodox contemplatives of the 18th and 19th centuries, the American solitary Henry David Thoreau, and, in our own century, the Trappist monk Thomas Merton. France points out that Western monasticism stressed the virtues of community and tended to be suspicious of solitude. Merton, for example, had a long battle with his superiors, who adamantly opposed his desire to withdraw to a hermitage.

Merton is a good example of the conflict between the desire for solitude and the intense need for human companionship that often exercises the

hermit. He had friends all over the world who wrote to him regularly and travelled thousands of miles to visit him. Locked away in his monastery, Merton exercised enormous influence in the world. His writings gave people a greater appreciation of the solitary life and changed the way that many Catholics saw other faiths.

An obvious admirer of solitude and reticence, France lets his hermits speak for themselves. He begins with an illuminating discussion of the emergence of the idea of the individual in ancient Greece, showing that the desire for solitude and self-sufficiency was an essential concomitant of the developing social ideal. His remarks on the Desert Fathers, which emphasise their sound sense and compassion, will correct the common view of these hermits as repressed fanatics. But then France seems to retire, hermit-like, from his text and the book becomes more of an anthology of the hermits' maxims.

This abundance of quotation tends to be indigestible and the reader would welcome more guidance and interpretation — all the more so since France has raised an important issue. By fleeing solitude and silence and continuing to see all virtue as social, we are in danger of ignoring a state of life which, in those who have the heremetic vocation, has long been a source of creativity, wisdom and insight to society as a whole.



The 19th-century Dinton Hermit

0800 120 130

On fishing and fidelity

Rodney
Milnes on a
marriage
bound together
by music

Many marriages are incompressible to outsiders; even insiders, close friends of both, found it hard to fathom the marriage of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya — or rather marriages, since they divorced in 1933 at the time of Weill's first period of exile in Paris, and quietly remarried in New York. Even the constituents are unlikely: Weill, son of a North German cantor whose family must have found it hard to accept the Roman Catholic, Viennese small-time actress with a lurid past even before their first marriage in 1926.

Lenya's interest in the pleasures of the flesh was always well developed, and she was serially and openly unfaithful. So was Weill, but more discreetly — a pattern reflected by the book's editors — though his attachment to a (still) anonymous woman in Hollywood seems to have occasioned the greatest danger to their marriage: the crisis surrounding Lenya's threat to move out of their home near New York may have contributed to the composer's shockingly early death from heart trouble in 1950. He was only as old as the century.

The fact that Lenya was married and widowed three more times, each time to a homosexual with a drink problem, and devoted the rest of her life to the tireless promotion of Weill's works suggests that what bound them together as much as anything else was music.

But this impeccably edited, generously illustrated volume is about Weill's and Lenya's lives rather than the music: they were together during the collaboration with Brecht and the creation of the major Broadway shows. Weill's early letters confirm that music came before marriage; no wonder the sparky Lenya became restless. But the copious post-divorce letters are depressingly fascinating. Lenya had run off with the tenor, common and compulsive gambler Otto von Pasetti; Weill, struggling to earn a living in the first years of exile in Paris and London, profoundly de-



Pleasures of the flesh led to a marriage out of key: Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya at the piano in Brook House (1942)

SPEAK LOW (WHEN YOU SPEAK LOVE):
The Letters of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya
Edited by Lys Symonette and Kim Kowalko
Hamish Hamilton, £30
ISBN 0 241 13264 9

pressed, subject to nervous prostrations, plays her like an expert angler, particularly juicy salmon, pretending to believe in Pasetti's "systems," sending her money, even arranging for Pasetti to join her in the cast of *The Seven Deadly Sins*. It worked. Pasetti vanished — you can sense the relief when Weill can finally refer to him as "a

swindler" — and Weill arranged for Lenya to join him in Max Reinhardt's epic pageant *The Eternal Road* on Broadway, passport for both of them to America. His friends may have been mystified, but he knew better.

The American letters comes in three substantial chunks, twice when Weill was working in Hollywood, once when Lenya was on a nationwide tour in a play by Maxwell Anderson. The tone is delightfully relaxed and warm, splattered with cheerful obscenities (one or two watered down by the editors), full of gossip about Fritz Lang, the Lunis, Helen Hayes, Sam and Bella Spewack and other movie and musical luminaries. Weill's accounts of trying to force Ira

Gershwin to get down to work on "my first Broadway opera," *Firebrand of Florence* (it flopped), are wryly amusing. There's an epic moment when Weill lets drop that he is considering making Brecht a monthly allowance, which elicits first a telegram and then a long letter from Lenya telling him why he should do no such thing. She knew her Brecht.

The picture that emerges, with Lenya on the road scouring antique shops for bric-a-brac to decorate their house, is of unclouded domestic bliss — misleading in the event, but throughout a fair amount of reading between the lines is necessary. Lenya is of course an outside character painted in primary colours. Weill remains elusive, at once shy and

absolutely sure of himself, charitable and sharp, worldly-wise yet oddly child-like, essentially serious but with a perky sense of humour. His determination to become exclusively American is reflected in his impatience with the Hollywood exiles — the Manns, Klemperer, Schoenberg — and the fact that all his friends were American. And what emerges strongly is that he regarded his Hollywood and some of his Broadway work as merely marking time: once the war was over, he would return to serious composition in directions suggested by *Street Scene* (1947) and *Lost in the Stars* (1949). So in 1950 he had only just started. He died far, far too young.

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto on Europe's past

Gems among the rocks of orthodoxy

A HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE
By John Merriman
Norton, £18.95
ISBN 0 393 30685 5

A rich American lady recently attempted to climb Everest with a coffee percolator. There ought to be a silly section in the records for historians who try to climb Parnassus with a textbook. Because textbooks are written for captive student-readerships they tend to get written badly.

Because they have to satisfy deadly course requirements they are usually conventional and dull — fossils in rocks of orthodoxy. Because of the assumption that their readers are brutes, they waste time telling you that Immanuel Kant was a German philosopher and Vichy is in France. Luring scholars out of specialist burrows, they trap mistakes and ensnare wild judgments. They sacrifice the beauty and power of prose to "clarity," which is transparent, and "accessibility," which is unreadable.

John Merriman's contribution has all the virtues of the genre but it has heroic virtues too. This is a book of briefcase-busting, depth-charge weight. It has over 1,500 pages — enough paper for the most fastidious castaway, enough ballistic powder for the feeblest student lout. The author has genuinely tried to make it better and brighter than its predecessors. He shares valuable scraps of evidence. He includes fragments of the lives of other textbooks leave out: musicians, scientists, women, children, prostitutes and pornographers. There are some sustained passages of deftly handled material, especially in the pages on the late 19th and very early 20th centuries. The uniform pace wears the reader, but the writer, at least, never flags. For sheer ambition, Merriman deserves success: most academic specialists nowadays are busy digging ever narrower furrows in ever more dedicated soils: it takes courage and vision for a professor to try to clamber out of the mud.

Despite these important merits, I fear no one except reviewers will read this book. Life is too short. The first unfamiliar idea I found was on page 917, the first joke on page 1,307. I admired

learn what Merriman thinks Europe is.

Most of the book is devoted to relatively long passages about obvious countries and even some of them are ignored for vast stretches. Russia is hardly mentioned in the first three hundred pages. No concept of Europe emerges. No context for Europe in world history appears.

The publishers have been unapologetically slack: they have encumbered the pictures with captions which are often wrong and usually worthless. They have let



Vices and virtues: breakthrough in the Chunnel (1990)

Maddeningly, quotations are attributed to "one observer" or "a contemporary" — presumably in order to spare American undergraduates from the embarrassment of difficult foreign names. Chronology and classification are meaninglessly telescoped. Gunpowder, muskets and rifles for instance, are crammed into two paragraphs ostensibly about 13th and 14th century warfare. The Crimean War is crushed into a section on Victorian Britain. The breathless last chapters on postwar Europe read almost like newscasters' headlines, with no story followed for long enough to make sense.

The author's judgments are frank but not fearless: he likes Whigs, democrats and free-market economists, hates slaves, imperialists and fanatics. Yet we never

Merriman refer in his preface to "these two volumes" while publishing the book in one. They ought to have been stripped of the clichés, mixed metaphors and stylistic infelicities of an author who is not a professional writer. Nor can anyone writing at this length on such a broad theme avoid howlers without editorial help.

On this showing, there is no place on Parnassus for John Merriman. He will continue to share low slopes with fellow-historians: there are more of us in the world today than ever. Yet between us we write fewer books that other people want to read. If we want to haul ourselves higher we shall have to discard all the old rope. And textbooks are among the unnecessary encumbrances we ought to be prepared to shed.

Curiouser and curiouser

Lynne Truss

LEWIS CARROLL: A Biography
By Michael Bakewell
Heinemann, £20
ISBN 0 434 04579 9

LEWIS CARROLL: A Portrait with Background
By Donald Thomas
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5327 7

When Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was first published in 1865, it received a rather double-edged tribute from one of its reviewers. So struck was the writer by Alice's charming nonsense and humour that he declared, "One can hardly help reading it through."

Alice, of course, did not deserve such faint praise, but biographers of his author should be pleased with it. As Virginia Woolf once brutally pointed out, "The Rev C. L. Dodgson had no life"; a biography which carries you to the end is therefore a marked success. These new books (both pluckily prepared in the teeth of Morton Cohen's monumental biography published last year) qualify on these meagre terms at least.

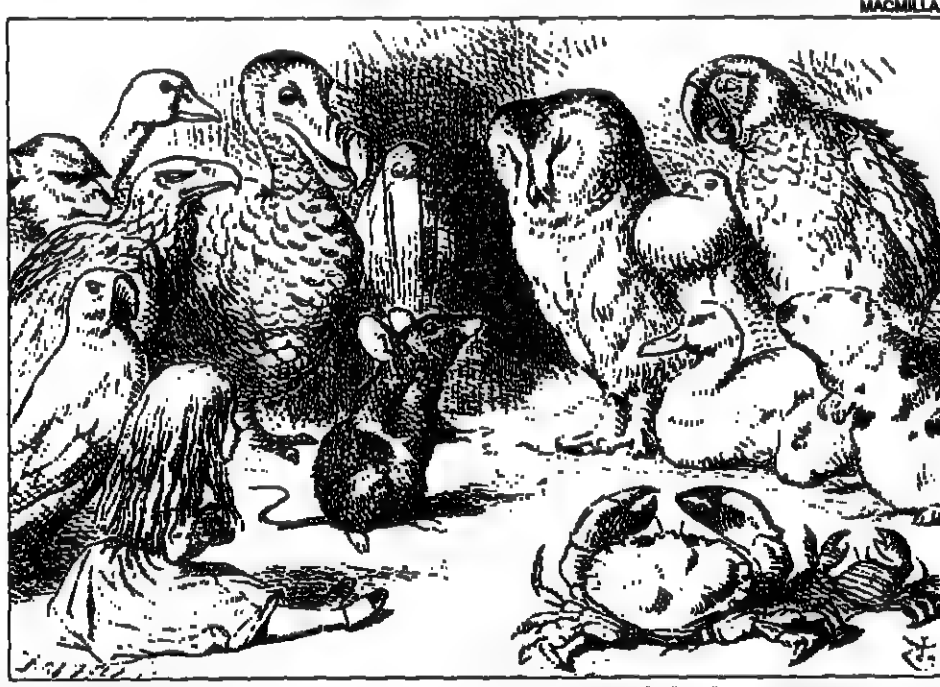
Dodgson is like the elusive snark of his famous poem — pursued by strangely compelled people who don't know what they are looking for,

whose maps don't help. "Forks and Hope" are as useful as you might imagine on this quest; nevertheless Donald Thomas arms himself with all manner of forks — raking the Victorian collective psyche for child prostitution and Oxford political intrigue (he's very good on this); while Michael Bakewell trusts to Dodgson's imagination, believing that if enough care is employed, this intensely peculiar man can be ultimately matched to his in-

tensely peculiar work.

So these books are very different. Bakewell is a good critic: stealthy, sensitive to Dodgson's infinite shades of grey, while Thomas is a colourist who sometimes prefers a splash of violet or orange quite unrelated to the big picture, for the forgivable reason of wanting some narrative excitement.

Dodgson had a happy childhood at home: so much is clear. His school days at Rugby were miserable, and his life-long sojourn at Christ Church, Oxford, was his fate rather than his ambition. And that's about it. As the White Knight's poem says, "I'll tell thee everything I can, there's little to relate." — and the little to relate here includes 19 consecutive summers in Eastbourne, a few child-friends, lots of penicilline wrangles, and in a startlingly uninteresting excursion to Russia. Under the nursery floor at the Croft Rectory in Yorkshire was dis-



Between reality and dreams: Sir John Tenniel's engraving of Alice in Wonderland (1865)

covered a block of wood on which the young Charlie supposedly wrote. "And we'll wander through the wide world, and chase the buffalo" — but this exuberant intention was surely never literal, sad to say.

Bakewell is spot-on, in fact,

when he insists that Dodgson throughout his life re-invented reality to make it his own — when he parodied a poem, took a picture of an "undraped" child, constructed unguessable conundrums, put Alice into a story, or closed his ears to profanity, he was

simply asserting the power of his own imagination to keep the world safe from any real buffalo who might possibly chase him back.

The question of Dodgson's interest in little girls remains problematic, not to say sticky. Thomas makes useful points

about the mid-Victorian age of consent (12), but whenever he mentions the child prostitutes operating in the Haymarket just yards from Dodgson's favourite hotel, there is some how an amusing background noise of head banging against brick. Bakewell cautions the reader not to jump to sensational conclusions; he believes that Dodgson was in love with his own childhood, and that the famous break with the Liddells came about not because he asked for Alice's hand, but because he took umbrage himself. He was not banished from the Deanery; offended by Mrs Liddell's suspicions, he stayed away. As a solution to the most famous mystery in his life, it certainly fits in perfectly with his known character.

And his character is very well known by now. Bakewell sums him up: "Fussy and easily offended, old-maidish and excessively prudish... he carried himself bolt upright, was deaf in one ear, suffered from housemaid's knee, and had a pronounced stammer. He was such a dull tutor that his pupils organised a round robin asking to be transferred to another teacher." But the words "and yet" are never far away with Lewis Carroll. He

is like one of his own puzzles: logical, but only to himself. Despite all his clerical "fuss budgeting" he was also a very funny writer — breezy, even — who delighted children with games and tricks. The little girls really loved to visit him: they were not just being polite.

One wonders whether, with madness so big a factor in the Alice books, sexuality was the only thing Dodgson kept at bay with his "pillow problems" and perpetual mental invention. His uncle, Skeffington Lutwidge, a commissioner in lunacy, was killed by a madman — and it was after a visit with Skeffington that Dodgson concluded that lunacy was the confusion of reality and dream — a distinct with which he certainly had problems himself. While it is true that his works have been psycho-analysed quite enough already (Alice as a symbolic penis takes the biscuit here), it still seems odd that biographers turn infrequently to books that reveal so much. Perhaps they remember the fate of the snark-finder: he softly and silently vanished away. With a quarry as elusive as Lewis Carroll, however, that's a risk you've got to take.

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Hot behind the curtain

Michele Roberts

THE CURIOUS ROOM
By Angela Carter
Chatto, £20
ISBN 0 7011 6308 0

Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*: fictionalised biographies of parricidal Victorian painter Richard Dadd and of Ronald Firbank, the Edwardian novelist; a new version of Wedekind's *Lulu*; a screenplay based on a real-life matricide in New Zealand, as well as the screenplays for *The Magic Toyshop* and *The Company of Wolves*.

Perhaps this collection will be of most use to students of Carter's work rather than the ordinary reader. While it's good to know that a collected edition of her works is available, most of us don't read

play texts for fun. What's interesting about these scripts, though, is the evidence they furnish of Carter's highly visual imagination. She wasn't going to wait for directors and stage designers to bring her visions to life. She knew all about making images work in theatre. The proof is here, on the printed page.

Writers' reputations often dip in the years immediately following their deaths, before reassessment is made. I had no doubt that some critics will feel hot and bothered by Carter's delight in skipping between all kinds of different literary and dramatic forms. Just as it was impossible to pigeonhole her as a feminist or feminist writer, so it's difficult to argue that she should have stuck to novels and short stories. Clearly, she relished experiment and change, aesthetically as well as politically. She joked all the time. She

invented a new womanly voice, just as she had no ultra modern dandyish concern with language and story shape, but she was always subversive. Holy cows, feminist or otherwise, were to be treated with irreverence.

One of the pleasures of reading this book is watching a writer's imagination translate itself into visual and aural effects. We're allowed backstage, to peep at the wondrous machines of illusion, to follow Carter's relish of technology. Mother Goose or the story-spinning grandmother in the corner by the fire, lived on, for her, through radio: "in its most essential sense... radio retains the atavistic lure, the atavistic power, of voices in the dark, and the writer who gives the words to these voices retains some of the authority of the most antique tellers of tales." Had she lived, I'm sure Angela Carter would have been one of the first explorers of virtual reality. In her imagination, she'd got there already.



RACING: DERBY-WINNING JOCKEY GAINS ANOTHER MAJOR SUCCESS IN SPARKLING SEASON

First Island shines in Sussex Stakes

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

EVEN the best friends of the identical Hills twins have trouble telling the two jockeys apart, but their contrasting fortunes at Goodwood yesterday were there for all to see after the two principal races of the day.

Having won the Derby and King George this season, Michael can do no wrong and as the gaps appeared at the right time in the Sussex Stakes he came from last on First Island to win the group one prize and so become the first jockey since Lester Piggott in 1977 to complete such an august treble.

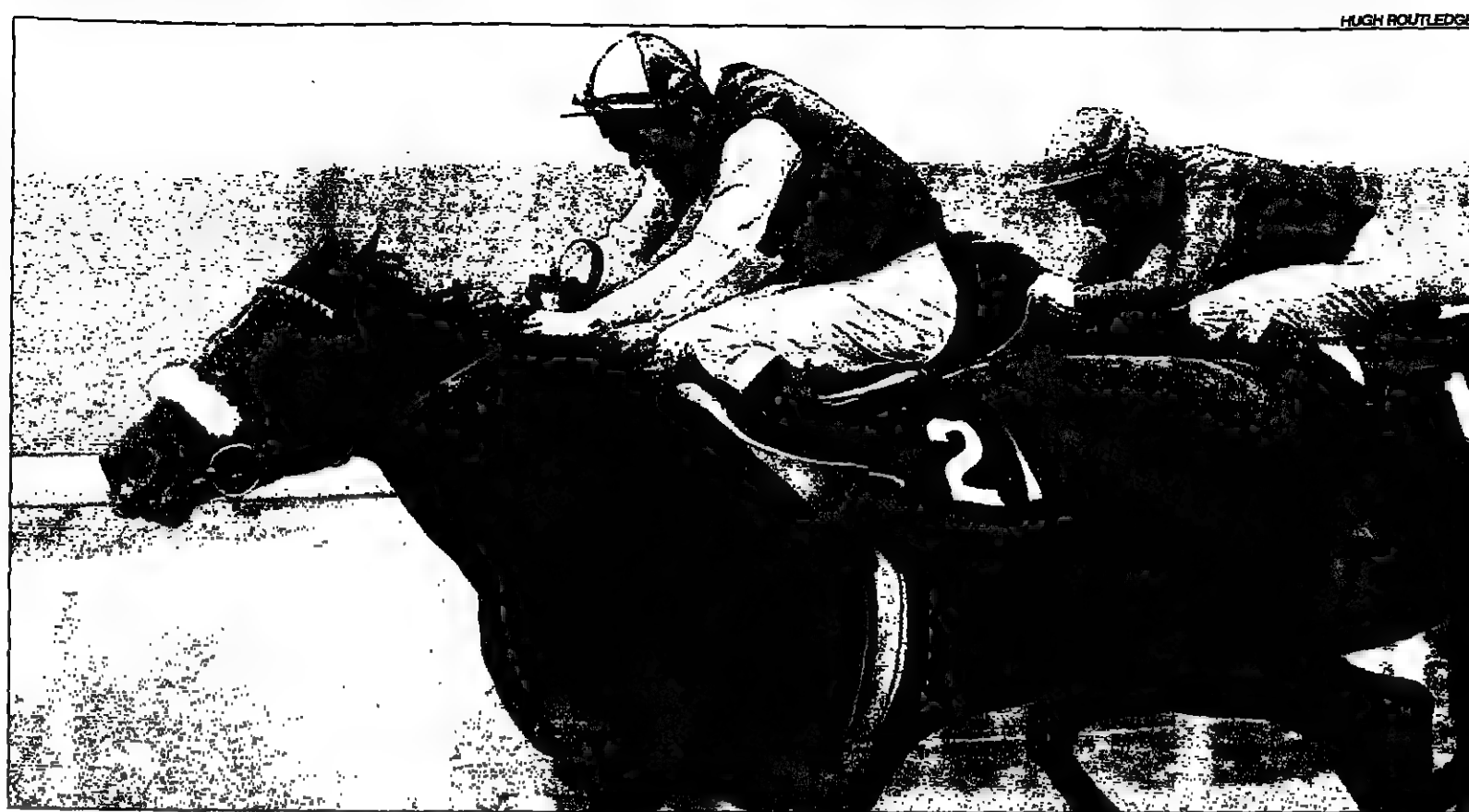
While he enjoyed another bumper pay-day, Richard, his

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BEND WAVY
(3.50 Goodwood)
Next best: Easycall
(2.45 Goodwood)

younger brother by half an hour, was landed with an unwanted holiday after the stewards took exception to his riding of the strongly fancied Sahm in the Lanson Champagne Stakes and gave him a seven day ban for irresponsible riding. Sahm, who had finished second to the Paul Cole-trained Putra, was relegated to last.

Throughout this meeting a rather too enthusiastic racecourse announcer has deemed it right in between races to regularly promise spectators there were still many "good things" to come. With the first nine favourites at the meeting having been vanquished, most punters would have been happy to find one good thing.



First Island, ridden by Hills, shows a fine turn of foot to beat Charnwood Forest in the group one Sussex Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

but in the Sussex Stakes they clearly believed they had located the increasingly rare specimen in the shape of Charnwood Forest, the four-length winner of the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The "professional" punters weighed in with a handful of £10,000 wagers to force his price down to even.

However, no amount of cash can make a horse run faster and although favourite backers must have been opti-

mistic as Michael Kinane extricated Charnwood Forest from behind a wall of horses to strike the front inside the final quarter-mile, their hopes were short-lived.

First Island was last entering the home straight but Hills, riding with a confidence gained from championship successes on Shaamit and Pentire, had decided deliberately to follow Kinane and the favourite. As Charnwood Forest made his move, First Island travelled ominously well in his slipstream.

The closing stages were almost a replica of the King George as Hills, again wearing the colours of Mollers Racing, cruised up alongside the leader a furlong out before quickening clear.

The late Eric and Budgie Moller enjoyed their fair share of success as owners, but nothing compared to the triumphs of horses financed by a trust set up to survive them. However, their forethought has contributed in Geoff Wragg enjoying the most successful week in his distin-

guished career — and the glory days are far from over. "He's improving all the time. We will keep him in training next year, and I would not be afraid to run him over 1½ miles," Wragg said. In the meantime, the Juddmonte International Stakes at York is a possibility along with the Irish Champion Stakes.

Bend Wavy can roll over rivals

GOODWOOD

2.15: In a race with limited betting appeal, *Ela-Vie-Mou* looks to have sound each-way prospects. Richard Hughes, who won on Luca Cumani's runner at Nottingham in May, is back on board and it could be worth forgiving the Kris colt a disappointing run when stepping back in trip at Salisbury last time. Infamous and Jazz King are closely matched on their run behind Arabian Story and should appreciate the extra quarter-mile.

2.45: This is a substandard running of the Richmond Stakes and there could be an upset. Raphane, second to Topsy Creek in the Norfolk Stakes and subsequent winner of the Curragh Stakes, is the form choice but does not look the easiest of rides. Alan Jarvis is double-handed with Roman Imp and Proud Native, the latter being preferred after winning the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom 54 days ago. Although Easycall needs to improve to win this group two race, Brian Meehan's speedy colt looks up to it after impressive victories at Leicester and Newmarket. Today's extra furlong should hold no terrors.

3.20: A strong pace looks likely with the front-running Grey Shot returning to action. A reproduction of the form which saw him run Double Trigger to a head at Ascot back in early May would give Ian Balding's stayer a squeak but he has been a shade disappointing in his two subsequent runs.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Lear White has made the frame in decent group races this year but is far from sure to see out this trip and this could turn into a battle between Kalabo and the progressive Persian Punch. Kalabo, third to Pentire and Classic Cliche in the King Edward VII Stakes at Ascot last year, has looked as good as ever this term when winning at Chester and Newmarket and there is every prospect he will improve over this trip.

3.50: Missile is likely to be a short-priced favourite and while he holds an obvious chance after his runaway success at Newmarket (for which he only has a 7lb penalty) the expected odds in an 18-runner handicap justify looking for value elsewhere. Almuhimmi, twice a winner of decent seven-furlong handicaps, was denied a clear run in the Bunbury Cup last time and should appreciate today's trip. However, a tendency to start slowly is a worry round here and Bend Wavy is the choice. He won at Beverley with something to spare last month having previously failed to stay here over an extra quarter-mile.

RICHARD EVANS

THE TIMES

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DONCASTER: 7.20 Monro GOODWOOD: 2.45 Raphane, Roman Imp, SALISBURY: 6.55 Crusar, Lead, Our Nuts 7.05 Colombia, 8.05 My Mile YARMOUTH: 2.00 Persian Butterfly, 2.30 Abstone Queen, Victory At Hart 5.05 Anahato

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YARMOUTH

THUNDER

2.00 Oberon's Dart, 2.30 Le Shuttle, 3.05 Song Of Sike, 3.35 Lady Godiva, 4.10 Young Annabel, 4.45 Mizzila.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

2.00 NEVER THINK TWICE

Our Newmarket Correspondent:

4.10 Young Annabel

GOING: GOOD

DRAW 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 THURNE HANDICAP

(2.5.90, 61 yds) (10 runners)

1 (1) 3110 KIDNEY RELATIVE 14 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 91

2 (2) 3137 GREY CHERRY 3 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 94

3 (3) 3110 KIDNEY RELATIVE 14 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 91

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33 (33) 3110 KIDNEY RELATIVE 14 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 91

3.35 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION FILLES

STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,070; 71 yds) (7)

1 (1) 2211 NASHBATH 8 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 91

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43 (43) 2211 NASHBATH 8 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 91

GOODWOOD

THUNDER

2.15 Sharaf

3.50 ALMUHIMI (nap)

4.25 Quintallina

5.00 Top Of The Form

5.35 Pay Homage

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.50 MISSILE (nap), 4.25 Quintallina

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

SIS

2.15 HEYSHOTT RATED HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £2,716; 1m 6f) (11 runners)

1 (1) 15401 BENATON 22 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 91

2 (2) 15401 BENATON 22 (D.F.) R. G. 3-10-0 D. B. 11-0-0 91

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14 (14)

CRICKET

Dexter's approach resurrected by Acfield committee

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TED DEXTER could be forgiven a sense of belated vindication yesterday. Three years after his hounding from office and the surreptitious disbanding of his England committee, by counties fearful that their power-base was being eroded, the paramount recommendation of the eagerly-awaited Acfield working party is that the workings of the national team should be governed by a specialist committee.

An 18-page report, the result of four months of consultation and deliberation by a select band comprising two county chairmen, David Acfield and Bob Bennett, two former England captains, Mike Gatting and David Gower, and a coach, Micky Stewart, was released to the counties yesterday.

It will be debated and voted upon at the Test and County Cricket Board meeting on August 20 and, as ever with the findings of such bodies, there is the inherent danger that they will be thrown out. All too often, the counties have responded to anxiety over the state of the game by commissioning reports and then conveniently ignoring them. If that should happen on this occasion, however, English cricket will deserve derision and humiliation.

The committee under Acfield, chairman of Essex and the TCCB's cricket committee, worked to a specific brief and part of their problem was a public misconception over the scope of it. "The morning after the working party was announced, someone from Radio 4 rang me for an interview and asked if I

was the saviour of English cricket," Acfield said. "I burst out laughing."

His mandate did not involve the structure of the domestic game, only the selection, management and coaching of England teams. The primary conclusion was that these functions must be brought under the umbrella of a management committee, with decision-taking powers.

This was the vision shared by Dexter, who chaired an England committee from 1993 until, with a promising infrastructure in place, he was forced out. Ostensibly, he went because of the poor results of the Test team but

Trial verdict 1, 4

those who hastened his departure were resentful of the increasing power being wielded by his committee.

"To some extent, we are going back to the Dexter days," Acfield conceded. "But it is our view that England cricket needs specialists to organise it. The crucial factor in our report is the creation of a management committee. If they accept nothing else, I hope this is adopted."

Acfield, having pointed out that the responsibility for the international side is "fragmented", proposes that a nine-man body should handle all such matters, including the appointments of selectors, captain and coach. Tours, believed by the working party to be too long, would also come under the banner of the management committee.

In addition, the report recommends that the England coach should be relieved of selection responsibilities to avoid conflicts of interest and that the chairman of selectors should have absolute power to withdraw England players from county matches. This last proposal is sure to divide the counties, despite the sweetener of compensation payments.

"The counties have already turned this down once, preferring an agreement that they would treat any request from the selectors with sympathy," Acfield said. "But as a county chairman myself, I consider that rather nebulous."

The committee focused particularly on the amount of cricket played by leading English players and concluded that it is too much. While resisting, at least for now, the option of contracting Test players individually, the working party stressed that "ways must be found of giving top players sufficient periods of rest."

To illustrate the point, they compared the workload of key England and Australian players during the 12 months ending on March 31 this year. Michael Atherton was engaged for 241 days, compared to only 135 playing and touring days for his counterpart, Mark Taylor, and while Dominic Cork, England's prime bowler, totalled 239 days, Shane Warne's aggregate was 127. This is a stark revelation. Anyone doubting the need for Acfield's report, or searching for a plausible reason why England have fallen behind in international terms, need look no further.



No way back this time for Butcher as Turner's smart glove-work brings the left-hander's match-winning innings of 91 to an abrupt halt

In-form Butcher ties up loose ends

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL: Surrey beat Somerset by five wickets

IT DID not take Surrey long to complete a comfortable victory, and earn a home semi-final in the NatWest Trophy, against Essex, on August 13. There were seven over left when Adam Hobbie made the winning run and, for some reason, punched the air with joy. It was the only passionate moment of a perfunctory morning.

Hobbie, who resumed on two, finished with 45. The man-of-the-match award went to Butcher, who was out for 91 when Surrey were 22 runs short of their target. It was an odd dismissal too, stumped off a leg-side wide from Parsons.

but he had done his job admirably, seeing his side through after the loss of those three early wickets on Tuesday.

Butcher has made 13 scores of more than fifty this season, in all forms of cricket, and must be in the selectors' thoughts for a tour this winter, either to Australia with the A team, or possibly as a junior member of the full team in Zimbabwe and New Zealand. If they are sensible, they will surely look to include a couple of younger, unproven players.

Picking up on 126 for four, Hobbie swiftly took their partnership to 87 before Turner's smart glove-work ended it. Caddick had bowled out his quota by then, ending with the thoroughly good fig-

SCOREBOARD

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Semi-final pairing ends Roses dream

By ALAN LEE

CROSS-PENNINE dreams of the Roses counties meeting at Lord's for the first time in 54 knockout finals were dashed again yesterday, when the draw for the semi-finals of the NatWest Trophy emulated the Benson and Hedges Cup by pairing Lancashire and Yorkshire. Cruelly, the venue will once more be Old Trafford.

Eight weeks on from the heart-stopping game decided by one wicket, off the final ball, Yorkshire must go back to Fortress Manchester, where their great rivals now boast a record of 16 consecutive victories in knockout ties, stretching back almost a decade.

In the other semi-final, the four quarter-final "seeds" all progressed as expected. None had as tough a game as Lancashire, who had only two runs to spare against Derbyshire but remain on course to repeat their 1990 achievement of winning both Lord's finals.

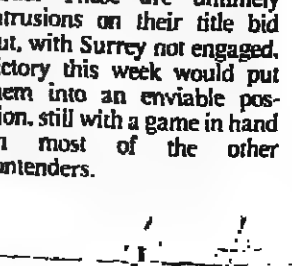
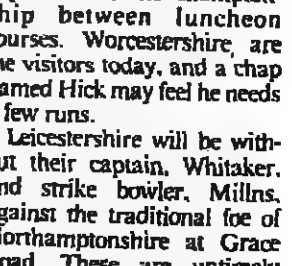
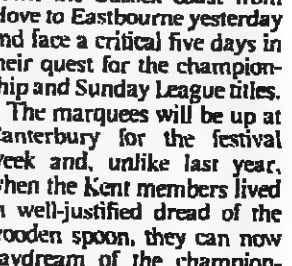
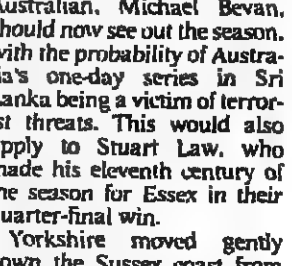
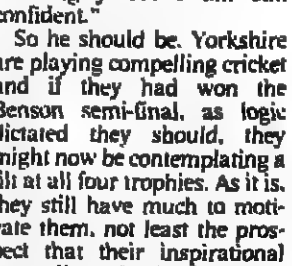
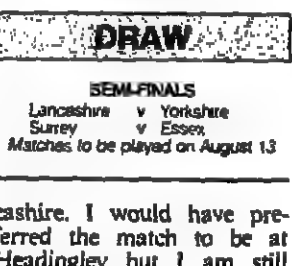
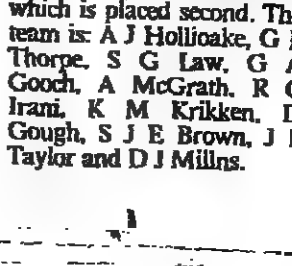
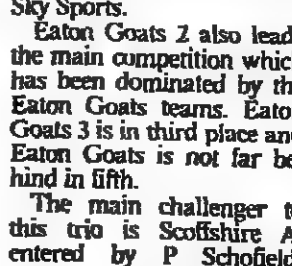
Mike Watkinson, the Lancashire captain, had more reason to enjoy the draw than his Yorkshire counterpart, David Byas. Watkinson admitted: "We came back from the dead to beat them in the Benson. I hope we get the same result this time but I don't want it to be so close." Byas countered defiantly: "We don't fear Lan-

Manager of the month

The manager of the month in the Times Interactive Team Cricket competition is John Eaton, of Brentwood, Essex, who recorded the highest points total in July.

His team, Eaton Goats 2, comprises: G A Hick, G P Thorpe, A McGrath, G P Hobbie, S G Law, J P Stephenson, K M Krikken, D J Mills, D Gough, A M Smith and M J McCague.

The prize comes in two parts: a Kent & Curwen single-breasted blazer, a Kent & Curwen long-sleeved cricket sweater and an official England T-shirt and sunhat, plus a PACE satellite



Pos	Team (Player's name)	Runs	Wickets	Total
1	Eaton Goats 2 (J Eaton)	13646	0	13646
2	Scotches A (P Schofield)	12037	0	12037
3	Eaton Goats 3 (J Eaton)	12022	0	12022
4	Scotches B (P Schofield)	11997	0	11997
5	Scotches C (P Schofield)	11979	0	11979
6	K P Adams 3 (W Pabel)	11838	0	11838
7	Opportunists 3rd (J Stewart)	11807	0	11807
8	Bowled Marvin (H Paul)	11532	0	11532
9	Crossed High School (M Ruggins)	11507	0	11507
10	Gladiators (D Purgley)	11487	0	11487
11	Torridge Top (J Hick)	11464	0	11464
12	The Tom Meddies (N Kall)	11449	0	11449
13	Carline A (A Lockhurst)	11432	0	11432
14	Battle's Affairs 11 (BE Howes)	11416	0	11416
15	St Miers (N Marchant)	11406	0	11406
16	Reardon Marlets (R Williams)	11397	0	11397
17	17	11369	0	11369
18	Kent's Corbets 2 (N Kall)	11367	0	11367
19	Opportunists 4th (J Stewart)	11362	0	11362
20	Phosphors (C Holburn)	11332	0	11332
21	Thangy Bob (A Zha Ghani)	11327	0	11327
22	Hickdikes (M Ward)	11275	0	11275
23	Riverston XI (W Ruggins)	11274	0	11274

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

24 John Hunt XI (J Hunt)	12247	52 Odey Three (M Long)	12066	76 Spike Thomas XI (TE Welch)	11832
25 M C M (M Poywell)	12236	53 Hays Bates XI (A Time Lark)	12064	77 Beckenham Boys (J Short)	11834
26 Hays Bates XI (A Time Lark)	12237	54 The Run Rats (M L Tait)	12038	78 Hays Bates XI (A Time Lark)	11832
27 Pennel Batters (JS Hutchings)	12228	55 Auklands (P Stewart)	12034	79 Jones Boys One (SA Jones)	11829
28 Tait's Tigers (J Short)	12215	56 Must Be Day Day (P Stewart)	12011	80 Singing In The Rain (H Paul)	11826
29 G B & P (J B Brooks)	12213	57 Hunt A XI (A Hunt)	12006	81 Taddy Two (J B Short)	11823
30 J B & P (J B Brooks)	12200	58 Four Back (A Porter)	12003	82 The Happy Hobbits (G Brown)	11820
31 Lucky Lads (L Maltell)	12197	59 GT Old Boys (M Tait)	11996	83 The Naught Gals (M Maltell)	11820
32 Cornam Bats 2 (D Blackbury)	12197	60 The Wrens (M Hall)	11996	84 M C K Boys (A Zha Ghani)	11811
33 Johnson's First XI (R Johnson)	12195	61 Adley 1 (M Long)	11995	85 England Shadows (D Purgley)	11801
34 Freds Team (R Price)	12193	62 Tracelwood XI (C J Hodge)	11963	86 Marnie Middle XI (Alet)	11793
35 Tins Twisters (GN Corbett)	12193	63 EARLY BRIDS 2 (M Whaley)	11930	87 G C 1 (G C 1)	11792
36 Red Sun 3 (J Hodge)	12183	64 Old Boys (M Tait)	11929	88 Bury Back (M Burt)	11791
37 Breakfast Boys (J Goodman)	12141	65 Stars Wars 3 (Z All)	11924	89 Lord Of The Rings (M Vile)	11778
38 Duck Donald (H Paul)	12137	66 She Loves Other Sun (A Jackson)	11917	90 Darryl Boys (J Hodge)	11778
39 Marnie Middle XI (Alet)	12134	67 Westwood Wonders (H Howes)	11910	91 M J Team 1 (R Sturt)	11775
40 Jones XI Wonders (R Sturt)	12134	68 Westwood Wonders (H Howes)	11910	92 Darryl Boys (J Hodge)	11775
41 Tait's Tigers (J Short)	12115	69 She Loves Other Sun (A Jackson)	11897	93 Second Innings (G Brooks)	11764
42 Opportunists 1st XI (P Stewart)	12115	70 Day's Woodlands (J Glover)	11879	94 Only 2 (M Long)	11762
43 Red Sun 3 (J Hodge)	12115	71 Kings Kew (K Porter)	11872	95 Penns Panthers (M Williams)	11762
44 Caroline A (A Lockhurst)	12112	72 Cow Dedicated XI (N Ewing)	11872	96 Dream Team 2 (M Dunt)	11761
45 Barber Rangers (JS Hutchings)	12099	73 Lions Losers (L Tait)	11865	97 Dream Team 2 (M Dunt)	11761
46 Caroline A (A Lockhurst)	12094	74 Outside Edge (G Brooks)	11865	98 Dream Team 2 (M Dunt)	11761
47 Caroline A (A Lockhurst)	12094	75 The Boundaries Boys (C Tait)	11862	99 Dream Team 2 (M Dunt)	11761

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by July 29. Overseas players are shown in **bold type**. Rising stars in *italic*.

Player (No) **Runs** **Wickets** **Total**

Batsmen (001-135)

1 J Adams (001)	1164	(13)	0	1164	(13)
2 G A Hick (002)	494	(8)	0	494	(8)
3 G P Thorpe (003)	740	(9)	0	740	(9)
4 M A McGrath (004)	635	(6)	0	635	(6)
5 J P Stephenson (005)	635	(6)	0	635	(6)
6 K M Krikken (006)	500	(9)	2	500	(9)
7 D J Mills (007)	500	(9)	2	500	(9)
8 D Gough (008)	101	(16)	11	1030	(85)
9 A M Smith (009)	507	(7)	0	507	(7)
10 M J McCague (010)	60	(0)	0	60	(0)
11 J Eaton (011)	1200	(49)	4	1280	(44)
12 P Schofield (012)	556	(74)	13	859	(74)
13 P Schofield (013)	546	(74)	13	859	(74)
14 A Hick (014)	546	(74)	13	859	(74)
15 D Gough (015)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
16 J Eaton (016)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
17 J Eaton (017)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
18 J Eaton (018)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
19 J Eaton (019)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
20 J Eaton (020)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
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44 J Eaton (044)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
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79 J Eaton (079)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
80 J Eaton (080)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
81 J Eaton (081)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
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86 J Eaton (086)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
87 J Eaton (087)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
88 J Eaton (088)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
89 J Eaton (089)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
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91 J Eaton (091)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
92 J Eaton (092)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
93 J Eaton (093)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
94 J Eaton (094)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
95 J Eaton (095)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
96 J Eaton (096)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
97 J Eaton (097)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
98 J Eaton (098)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
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131 J Eaton (131)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
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133 J Eaton (133)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
134 J Eaton (134)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)
135 J Eaton (135)	857	(36)	0	857	(36)

The transfer line will open at 6am each Tuesday and will close at 6pm the following Monday. All transfers made during this period will be applied to team selections' teams prior to the commencement of the next first-class match. Transfer fees may be altered slightly to accommodate schedule of first-class matches and prior notification will be published in The Times. Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling

0891 865 964

A team selector may transfer up to two players in his/her team per transfer period. Whether you are transferring one or two players, your team must be reformed correct according to the format of the team. One batsman, one wicketkeeper and one bowler and including one rising star and one overseas player (but no more than one of either) by the end of the call. You may check your team score and position in TCC by calling the TCC Check Line on

0891 774 779

P J Prichard (001)	990	(23)	0	990	(23)
M P Ramprasad (002)	822	(9)	0	822	(9)
S Ramesh (003)	798	(14)	0	798	(14)
D J Robinson (004)	554	(47)	0	554	(47)
P D Robinson (005)	554	(47)	0	554	(47)
P D Robinson (006)	554	(47)	0	554	(47)
P D Robinson (007)	554	(47)	0	554	(47)
P D Robinson (008)	554	(47)	0	554	(47)
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GOLF: SCOT HUNTS FOR EXTRA TEN PER CENT

Montgomerie swings into sharper routine

FROM MEL WEBB
IN GOTHENBURG

COLIN MONTGOMERIE has topped the European Order of Merit for the past three years and is out in front again this season. The 31-year-old Scot is second in the world rankings: fact. He has won approaching £6 million worldwide since he turned professional in 1987, educated and pretty accurate guess. And he has done it all without ever playing at more than 90 per cent efficiency: utterly astounding.

It would, however, be wrong to scoff, for the suggestion came yesterday from none other than the man himself.

If true, the initial thought was to

feel a little pity for those who have tried unavailingly to beat him. If 90 per cent equals £2.75 million in Europe in the past three years, any further improvement will leave the rest scrambling for the scraps from the master's table.

Montgomerie came to the conclusion that he had never played to his full potential during ten days' rest, recreation and reflection after missing the cut in the Open Championship for the fourth time in the past five years.

"If I'm missing cuts in Opens, then something is going wrong," he said as he prepared for the Volvo Scandinavian Masters, which starts at the Forsgården club 15 miles south of here today. "In my position in golf I should not be

doing this sort of thing. So I've decided to do something about it."

Montgomerie has never been the most assiduous of practicers, but that golfing philosophy has been consigned to the file marked Colin Montgomerie Mark I.

Already in the out-tray is Colin Montgomerie, Overweight Golfer: he put that right in the winter and continues to cut a slimline figure. Now he intends it to be followed by Colin Montgomerie, Dilatory Practicer. It is the only way, he said, like a man who has seen the light.

"I believe that to stay in my position I've to improve," he said. "When I had those few days off after the Open I came to the conclusion that I've been playing at 90 per cent for too long. My aim now is to give 110 per cent."

A thought entered the mind. If the new-found (over)work ethic has gripped him, it would also improve his demeanour, sometimes in the past he could have scowled for Great Britain. But the question was still-born, pre-empted by Montgomerie's broaching the subject himself.

"Whether I have shot 65 or 75 I shall go to the practice ground instead of back to the hotel," he said. "If I know that I have tried 100 per cent, I will be more settled in my mind, and my temperament, both on and off the course, will be better as well if I know that what I have given is my best."

Montgomerie has already walked a long way down his path to Damascus this season. This week, as he takes on a powerful field, he will be thrusting in the final conversion. We shall see.

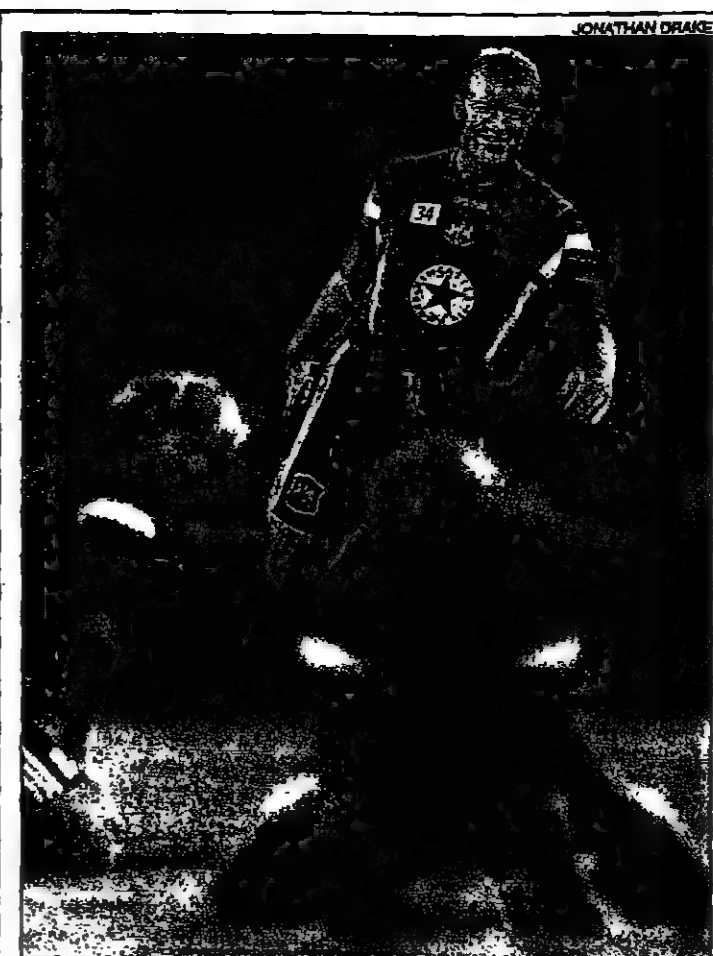
Webster finishes early

PAUL WEBSTER is caddying for his son Shaun in the 66th English Amateur Championship at the Notts Golf Club, Hollinwell, this week and so far his only problem, apart from having his car broken into, has been the long trek back to the clubhouse from the 12th green (Patricia Davies writes).

The young Webster, 19, is a former winner of the Doug Sanders world junior championship now studying mostly golf at Central Alabama Community College — tenpin bowling and first aid have been on his curriculum, but it is mayhem he has been specialising in so far this week, having won his three matches by 7 and 6.

Yesterday morning, Webster was eight up at the turn against Steven Done, with the aid of four birdies and an eagle three, at the 6th. Done birdied the 11th to stay in the match but was undone at the next. In the afternoon, Mark Wharton found six birdies in 11 holes too much for him.

Hollinwell's greens are lush and slow, hence the birdie barrage. Mike Reynard, the Worcester champion and runner-up in the British Amateur last year, has had 12 birdies in his 43 holes so far. Gary Wolstenholme, his fellow international, is 11 under for his three rounds but was taken to the last green by Simon Wakefield, from Staffordshire.



Alan Shearer joked with his new Newcastle United team-mates during his first training session on the club's pre-season tour of Singapore. However Shearer, who signed for a world record-breaking £15 million on Monday, will not make his first appearance on the trip. That is expected to come in the Charity Shield match against Manchester United at Wembley on August 11. Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said: "We are going to Lincoln before that but that's what it looks like at this stage."

MOTOR RACING

Todt keeps Irvine in driving seat

JEAN TODT, the Ferrari sporting director, is expected to defy growing pressure from the Italian media and re-sign Eddie Irvine as Michael Schumacher's team-mate next season (Oliver Holt writes).

Ferrari's option on Irvine's services for next year runs out today and an announcement from the team's headquarters in Maranello is expected imminently.

Todt, who has earned the respect of all those who work with him because of his honesty, objectivity and fearless attempts to drag Ferrari back to the pre-eminent position they once held, has always spoken highly of the Ulsterman's readiness to play a supporting role to the world champion.

After the team was plagued by unreliability in a string of races, the Italian media and factions within Ferrari suggested that Irvine should be replaced next season by their test driver, Nicola Larini, or Giancarlo Fisichella, who has driven for Minardi in several races this season.

Yet after the German Grand Prix in Hockenheim last weekend, Todt hinted that he was about to confirm Irvine's place in the team for a second year. "It would be unfair to get rid of Eddie," Todt said, "because everyone within the team is happy with him. We are starting to rebuild something here and he is part of it."

Irvine has made no secret of his desire to stay with the team for another year and it is highly unlikely that either Larini or Fisichella could get as close to Schumacher as the Ulsterman has done with such a small amount of testing.

Offiah delay is tackled by Broncos

LONDON Broncos rugby league club are hopeful that problems of joint ownership with Bedford by union club, which are holding up the £300,000 transfer of Martin Offiah from Wigan, can be overcome in time for the Great Britain wing to appear in the home match against Warrington on Sunday (Christopher Irvine writes).

Wigan have received their cheque from London but it is Bedford's majority stake in the deal and the possibility of them having first option on the player that has caused the delay. Offiah has signed a loyalty contract to the Super League but he could miss part of next season because of commitments with Bedford. Alan McColm, Offiah's agent, said: "It's a matter of ensuring both codes, as well as Martin, are happy."

POLO: C S Brooks beat Metropolitan 9-5 in their 18-goal Cowdroy Park Challenge Cup semi-final at Brooklands in Amblesham, West Sussex, yesterday. C S Brooks were 6-1 ahead at trading-in time, but Metropolitan rallied in the last two chukkas with some fine goals from Howard Hipwood and his No 2, Tommy Wilson.

RUGBY UNION: Neath, the Heineken League champions, approved at the withdrawal by Bath and Leicester from the proposed Anglo-Welsh meetings at the end of this month, have suggested an all-Welsh encounter with the cup holders, Pontypridd, on September 1 instead.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seattle's Mariners (5th game) defeated the Oakland Athletics 5-4 in the American League Championship Series. The Mariners won the series 3-2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York's Yankees (5th game) defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-4 in the National League Championship Series. The Yankees won the series 3-2.

SECOND YOUNG CHAMPIONSHIP (second day of play): Cleveland's Indians (2nd game) defeated the Boston Red Sox 5-4 in the American League Championship Series. The Indians won the series 3-2.

MINOR COUNTRIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Lancashire defeated Yorkshire 147 and 167 in the Minor Counties Championship. Lancashire won the series 3-2.

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION AREA CHAMPIONSHIP: Standings (after two days): Kent 1st, Essex 2nd, Surrey 3rd, West Midlands 4th, East Angles 5th, West Midlands 6th, East Midlands 7th, Second division: 1. Kent 7th, 2. Thames Valley 8th, 3. Middlesex 9th, 4. Sussex 10th, 5. Yorkshire 11th, 6. Lancashire 12th, 7. Cheshire 13th, 8. Derbyshire 14th, 9. Gloucestershire 15th, 10. Warwickshire 16th, 11. Herefordshire 17th, 12. Shropshire 18th, 13. Staffordshire 19th, 14. Northamptonshire 20th, 15. Hertfordshire 21st, 16. Cambridgeshire 22nd, 17. Lincolnshire 23rd, 18. Leicestershire 24th, 19. North Yorkshire 25th, 20. South Yorkshire 26th, 21. Derbyshire 27th, 22. Gloucestershire 28th, 23. Warwickshire 29th, 24. Herefordshire 30th, 25. Shropshire 31st, 26. Staffordshire 32nd, 27. Northamptonshire 33rd, 28. Hertfordshire 34th, 29. Cambridgeshire 35th, 30. Lincolnshire 36th, 31. Leicestershire 37th, 32. North Yorkshire 38th, 33. South Yorkshire 39th, 34. Derbyshire 40th, 35. 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ATLANTA '96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE

The women who play handball, a sport that made its first Olympic appearance at the 1996 Berlin Games and has been described as a cross between football and basketball, have reason to believe they are not getting equal treatment with the men. The inferiority complex, which starts with there being 12 men's teams but only eight for women, has been heightened by the appearances of dignitaries. While the royal families of Spain and Sweden cheered their respective men's teams to victories, and the likes of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, and Bill Campbell, the mayor of Atlanta, attended other men's matches, VIPs have been conspicuous by their absence from the women's matches. The International Handball Federation is trying to make amends, with Erwin Lang, the president, deciding yesterday to hold court with the women, and announcing that at the 2000 Games, 12 women's teams will be allowed to compete. **CL**

Twenty-one promising young athletes are in Atlanta as guests of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the winners of a draw among those who took part in the governing body's world athletics day this year. Each knew they would receive free flights, accommodation and stadium tickets but there was a surprise waiting for them at lunch on Tuesday. They were joined by Michael Johnson, on his day off between winning the 400 metres on Monday and starting out in the 200 metres yesterday. Ato Boldon, the bronze medal-winner in the 100 metres, and Jackie Joyner-Kersey, twice the Olympic heptathlon champion. Each of them recounted how they had come through adverse experiences and emphasised the importance of never giving up. "It has taken me ten years of work to win this gold medal," Johnson told them. "In 1993 I was injured and in 1994 I was sick. So I think this gold in 1996 speaks about my perseverance, about my hard training and about my will." **CL**

The women's hockey bronze medal play-off between Great Britain and Holland today is unlikely to produce a frenzy of goalmouth action. Mandy Davies, who plays in midfield for Britain, does not relish the prospect of meeting the Dutch. "We did not play particularly well against them," she said, referring to the 1-1 draw on July 21. "They played quite negatively and I don't think they like playing us." Britain's front-runners, Jane Skirth and Mandy Nicholls, are likely to find that Holland are less generous than Argentina in allowing space in which to work the ball, particularly after Holland's 4-0 defeat by Australia on Tuesday night in the last match of the round-robin series. A tense midfield battle is therefore in prospect with not more than a goal separating the sides. Although the United States women are out of the medal hunt, crowds are gathering every day to watch the matches, even though some spectators admit that they find the modern game a little confusing. **SF**

Reports: Craig Lord, David Powell, Stephen Smith

HOT SPOT

Roger Black conceded that he was always racing for second place in the 400 metres. Second, that is, to Michael Johnson. The Olympic timetable was rescheduled to allow Johnson to attempt the double of 200 and 400 metres. Stage one has been successfully completed. Tonight, he takes on Fredricka Boldon and company, looking to make Olympic history. **TV: BBC1: from 10.30pm**

Not content with a gold medal at the Paralympics in 1992, wheelchair archer Paola Fantato, of Verona, took aim at her able-bodied rivals to make the Italian team for Atlanta. The 36-year-old, who contracted polio when she was eight months old, is now ranked third in the world. Her courage was roundly applauded at the Stone Mountain range, but Fantato was unhappy with her first-round exit. "I am feeling disillusioned because I wasn't able to reach my goals," she said. "The most important thing for me is to be recognised as an athlete. The fact I had [in Atlanta] might well have won the gold [at the Paralympics]." Meanwhile, for Britain, useless archer Alison Williamson — she covered up for the Games but not the glossy magazines — advanced to the next round by defeating Olga Zebugina, of Belorussia, 157-142. Williamson, 24, says she enjoys juggling and playing snooker games. But when it comes to real ambition, she is very serious: "I want to marry rich," she said. **CL**

The heaviest man in the Games is Mark Henry, an American weightlifter who topped the scales at almost 295lb for the super-heavyweight class. For the Americans, he has been one of the most celebrated figures of the Olympics, with his size, cheery smile and occasional writing of verse. No American has received such attention when finishing fourteenth in the Games. However, when he reeled off the stage injured after his event on Monday, he was consoling by a lucrative future, something that few weightlifters enjoy. He has a signed a two-year, multi-million dollar deal with the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), whose professional bouts draw huge television ratings. Vince McMahon, the head of WWF, said: "With many individuals, we try to give them a little personality, they don't necessarily have. All Mark has to do is to be himself." Henry said: "To most people, I'll be a good guy. To the ones that treat me bad, they'll definitely think I'm a bad guy." **CL**

It was out there in the synchronised swimming pool — and the defender of the piece has his mind on other things. Guy Druet, France's Sports Minister and Olympic 110 metres hurdles champion in 1976, decided six weeks ago to place an obstacle in the path of his nation's bathing beauties; he called a halt to a routine based on Schindler's List on grounds of taste, the Holocaust being not quite the thing one might wish to judge for artistic impression. Druet was busy handing out hurdling honours but is said to be satisfied that France will now perform to the rhythms of an American Indian war dance instead. They are not the only ones in combative mood. Ivan the Terrible will set the beat for Russia and Ninja for Japan. All a little hostile? Eva Riffel, of France, shrugged. But then what would she know? As their team handbook states, her friends call her Eva Vaporated because she's so scatterbrained. Despite trying hard, she can still be relied on for a gaffe. **CL**

Reports: Craig Lord, John Gorman

MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	25	26	12	Dominican Republic	1	0	1
Russia	18	14	10	Slovenia	1	0	1
China	12	15	8	Venezuela	1	0	1
France	12	6	13	Armenia	1	0	0
Italy	11	9	7	Cuba	1	0	0
Germany	10	12	10	Ecuador	1	0	0
Australia	7	9	18	Syria	1	0	0
Poland	6	8	9	Bulgaria	1	0	0
Ukraine	6	6	6	Sweden	1	0	0
Hungary	4	4	4	Latvia	1	0	0
Greece	4	4	4	Korea	1	0	0
Cuba	3	3	3	Austria	1	0	0
South Korea	3	3	3	Argentina	1	0	0
Japan	3	3	3	Croatia	1	0	0
Holland	3	3	3	Yemen	1	0	0
New Zealand	3	3	3	Spain	1	0	0
Belarus	3	3	3	Slovenia	1	0	0
Turkey	3	3	3	Uzbekistan	1	0	0
Canada	3	3	3	Georgia	1	0	0
Holland	3	3	3	Israel	1	0	0
Kazakhstan	3	3	3	Mexico	1	0	0
Belgium	3	3	3	Madagascar	1	0	0
Spain	3	3	3	Mongolia	1	0	0
South Africa	3	3	3	Morocco	1	0	0
Ethiopia	3	3	3	Mozambique	1	0	0
Belarus	3	3	3	Nigeria	1	0	0
Great Britain	3	3	3	Tanzania	1	0	0
Czech Republic	3	3	3	Uganda	1	0	0
Finland	3	3	3				
North Korea	3	3	3				

At end of Tuesday's events

Weather: sunny Humidity: 67% Temperature: 74F

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

ARCHERY: Men's individual, third round (14.00), quarter-finals, semi-finals and final (19.00).
ATHLETICS: Men: Decathlon, 110m hurdles (14.00); decathlon, discus (15.00 and 16.30); decathlon, pole vault (19.00); decathlon, javelin (22.30 and 23.45); 200m, semi-finals (23.10); 1,500m, semi-finals (23.55); 400m hurdles, final (00.25); 200m, final (01.00); 5,000m, semi-finals (01.15); decathlon, 1,500m (final event, 02.05). Women: High jump, qualifying (19.30); long jump (15.05); 200m, semi-finals (22.50); 1,500m, semi-finals (23.30); 200m, final (00.45).

BADMINTON: Men's and women's singles, finals; mixed doubles, final (all 14.00).

BASEBALL: Semi-finals (19.00 and 00.00).

BASKETBALL: Men's classification matches (15.00); women's classification matches (20.00); men's semi-finals (01.00 and 03.00).

BOXING: Semi-finals: Light-flyweight, bantamweight, lightweight, welterweight, middleweight, heavyweight (01.00).

CANOEING: Semi-finals: Men's 1,000m K1 (14.00); men's 1,000m C1 (14.30); women's 500m K4 (14.50); men's 1,000m K2 (15.10); men's 1,000m C2 (15.30); men's 1,000m K4 (15.50).

CYCLING: Individual time-trials: Men (13.30) and women (17.45).

DRIVING: Men's platform, preliminaries (01.00).
EQUESTRIANISM: Team showjumping (13.30 and 19.00 — final round).

FOOTBALL: Women's bronze medal match (23.00) and final (01.30).

GYMNASTICS: Women's individual rhythmic preliminaries (15.00); group rhythmic preliminaries (20.00).

HANDBALL: Women's play-offs (15.00 and 17.00) and semi-finals (19.30 and 21.30).

HOCKEY: Men's play-offs (19.30 and 18.00); women's bronze medal match (22.00) and final (00.30).

TABLE TENNIS: Men's singles, bronze medal match and final (21.30).

TENNIS: Men's singles, semi-finals (16.00); women's doubles, bronze medal match (20.00); men's doubles, bronze medal match (22.00).

VOLLEYBALL: Men's classification matches (13.00); women's play-offs (18.30) and semi-finals (00.30).

WRESTLING: Freestyle: Under 62kg, under 62kg, under 74kg, under 90kg and under 130kg, preliminaries (14.30) and classification matches (20.30).

YACHTING: Soling match races; men's and women's 470, final races (all 18.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-5.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 7.0-8.30pm Essential Olympics, 10.30pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2

8.30-10.30pm Olympic Grandstand, 12.30-4.55am Olympic Grandstand.

Eurosport

24-hour coverage.

Panasonic

Official Worldwide Sponsor
1996 Olympic Games



Bronze for confident Sciandri in cycling marathon

FROM PETER BRYAN

MAX SCIANDRI won a bronze medal for Great Britain in the men's cycling road race yesterday, finishing behind Pascal Richard, of Switzerland, and Rolf Sørensen, of Denmark, on a demanding circuit around Buckhead, a leafy suburb north of Atlanta.

The Derby-born rider, who was brought up in Italy, qualified to ride for Britain only last year having never been selected for Italy at international level. He is the first British rider to win a medal in the 137-mile road race since Alan Jackson at Melbourne in 1956.

Sciandri, 29, a stage-winner on the Tour de France last year, rode in determined style, always ready to renew attacks whenever he failed to consolidate an advantage.

On the run-in to the finish, he stepped up the pace and for a moment the gold medal appeared to be within his grasp. As the three leaders ended the last 200 metres, Sciandri switched to the right, catching Richard and Sørensen momentarily off-guard, and was able to open a gap of three lengths. His rivals reacted quickly, however, and Sørensen went ahead but just failed to hold off Richard on the line.

Sciandri, who retired on the eleventh stage of the Tour de France this year because of inflammation behind his left knee, was unable to react to the final thrust and sat up in the saddle over the last 50 metres.

"Maybe I went a little too early," he said, "but if I had not done that, I wouldn't have had a chance of winning the gold."

"I didn't want to wait to get to the front because in this race it leaves too much to chance. I have felt very good, very strong all the time I have been in Atlanta. I felt this race could go well for me."

Brian Smith, a former British road racing champion who is now based in the United States, was active in the earlier stages but like his team colleagues, Malcolm Elliott and John Tanner, eventually found the pace too fast.

OLYMPIC GAMES: MODERN PENTATHLON BENEFITS FROM NEW FORMAT

Zenovka's fall provides vital lift

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN ATLANTA

MONEY could not buy the publicity given to modern pentathlon by the unfortunate Eduard Zenovka, of Russia. In the most dramatic moment of the Games so far, other than the winning gymnastic vault by a clearly injured Kerri Strug, of the United States, Zenovka stumbled and fell within ten yards of a gold medal at the end of the cross-country discipline. NBC Television was running live for this million-dollar tumble.

The cross-country climax of a 12-hour day of competition gave invaluable momentum to the sport's campaign to retain its place on the Olympic programme. For the first time



Zenovka's fall in the cross country gives Parygin a chance to seize the gold medal

he had the fourth fastest cross-country time. Modern pentathlon has no shelter for single errors.

Klaus Schorman, of Germany, president of the Pentathlon Union, is optimistic that the sport has given itself a shot in the arm with the successful staging of this one-day competition, even though there were further wretched administrative blunders by ACOG, the Games organisers, in transport for competitors between

disciplines and inaccurate information given to ticket-holders. "Each sport was extremely run," Schorman said. "And we were very pleased with the outcome."

Gilbert Felli, the IOC director of sports, is confident for the future. "The one-day format is a very good," he said. "Though it is obvious now that the event in future must be staged at one venue."

On Tuesday, several thousand ticket holders were un-

able to reach the International Horse Park for the final two disciplines, riding and running, because of security road-blocks five miles away, with no shuttle bus facility provided at the car parks.

Most of them, understandably, refused to walk and because of inaccurate information sheets many spectators for the shooting discipline went to the wrong venue, that for the main shooting competition, instead of the range that

had been organised at the same venue as the fencing.

Some between-events facilities for the competitors were grossly inadequate. One bus between the swimming and riding venues had no air conditioning for the weary competitors, despite the temperatures of 90 degrees, and, upon arrival at the International Horse Park, they discovered that the only shelter when waiting to enter the jumping arena was beneath an oak tree.

Fate seems ominously to hover over Zenovka. In 1992 he had taken the bronze medal, luckily, when falling several times from his horse in what was then the last event. The following year, he was charged with drunken driving

Tuesday's results 39
Simon Barnes 42
Bryan's Eye 42

in a car crash in which Oksana Kostina, the world champion at rhythmic gymnastics, was killed.

At the end of four events, Zenovka was lying sixth, with a 45 second margin in the staggered starts behind the leader, Cesare Toraldo, of Italy, the world championship bronze medal-winner last year. Fifteen seconds or so behind Toraldo on the starting line came Aleksandr Parygin, of Kazakhstan, and Janos Martinek, of Hungary, the 1988 champion. On the second kilometre lap of the four lap course, Martinek and Parygin went past Toraldo with Zenovka closing behind them.

Into the stadium for the start of the last lap, Zenovka was in front, shadowed by Parygin with Martinek 20 yards astern. As they re-entered the stadium for a final half-circuit of the track, Zenovka and Parygin were a stride apart. Parygin threw up his arms with 100 yards to go as if to accept defeat.

Approaching the line, Zenovka slowed with exhaustion and, as he looked over his shoulder one side, Parygin surged past him on the other. Vainly Zenovka tried to accelerate, lunging toward the line, but in doing so tripped. The gold medal was Parygin's, competing in his first Games. Zenovka managed to stagger to his feet to take the silver medal.

Twelfth night with only one good act

Night 12 — whatever it turned out to be a rest day for the Atlanta athletes and an early night for us back home. Not out of choice, you understand. The body was willing, it was the television schedules that were weak. Even Des Lynam did not look like his heart was in it.

Don't get me wrong. I was as relieved as the next man to discover that Tony Gubba had survived the rigours of clay pigeon shooting, but Olympic football? Nobody watches Olympic football. Not long after midnight I came to the conclusion that I would be preserving my energies for another day.

Not that the evening had been a total washout. Right from the start of the Games, David Vine has been having all sorts of fun with what has turned out to be a cracking weightlifting competition. On Tuesday night, it reached its climax with the super-heavyweights or, as Des put it, "the really big boys." He was not wrong.

The battle between Ronny Weller and Andrei Chernenkin, both for gold and the world record, turned out to be one of the television highlights of the Games. "I don't need to say a word," Vine said, as Chernenkin made the winning 260kg clean and jerk. But inevitably he lost it... the Russians continue their dominance... and went on in similar vein for some minutes.

But who could begrudge him his moment. Over the past ten days Vine has taken a Cinderella sport and turned it into pretty much essential viewing. Holdsworth and Jim Brady have been doing something similar with boxing. Their commentary style is conversational and controversial and will not be to everybody's tastes. But for my money they are outperforming an under-resourced Jim Neilly on the BBC at nearly every opportunity.

On Tuesday night, wearying of the 40 minutes that Sue Barker's evening programme was dedicating to Clare Wood and Valda Lake losing 6-2, 6-1, I joined the pugilists just in



MATTHEW BOND ON THE TELEVISION MARATHON

time. They, too, were a little bored, in their case with a bout between boxers from Turkey and Poland. So they turned their attention to the truly miserable state of British amateur boxing.

For some days I had been wondering why the nearest thing I had seen to a British boxer was a handful of gallant losers from Ireland. Now I discovered. We only had two to start with. "It's the first time in modern history that Britain has absolutely failed to qualify for the quarter-finals," Holdsworth moaned. Brady, an American boxing journalist, turned the screw: "Yeah, you think back to the great names — Chris Finnegan, Alan Minter, Pat Cowdell..." His conclusion? "If Ireland could do it it was high time the British boxing authorities smartened up their act."

Holdsworth was not about to be consoled.

"They don't get smart in amateur boxing in Britain, Jim." Things, however, were about to get even worse. Shortly after this frank exchange, the European Broadcasting Union decided that this particular bit of satellite coverage of the gymnastics exhibition. The one bout Holdsworth and Brady had been looking forward to, Brian Magee, of Ireland, versus Mohamed Bahari, of Algeria, was not to be seen. Holdsworth sounded furious. "That's a great, great pity," he muttered.

Well, this might cheer him up. We caught up with the fight half an hour later with Sue Barker on BBC2. It was another stinker. It was that sort of night.

Increasing pride at the double

ONE sports organisation has come up with an idea to end Britain's medal drought — by introducing darts to the Olympics. The British Darts Organisation (BDO) is getting bullish over news that snooker is to be considered for the 2004 Olympics.

As Britain braced for its worst performance at an Olympics since Helsinki in 1952 amid news that Dick Palmer, the British Olympic Association secretary, is to meet Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, next week to discuss the low medal tally, the BDO came up with their idea to lift British pride.

"Surely it makes sense for us to compete in sports that we are good at," said Olly Croft, the BDO general secretary. The only snag for the BDO is that the British Sports Council does not recognise darts as a sport.

More experts

Swimming: The Court of Arbitration for Sport yesterday called in more experts to help it to deliberate on the Russian appeal against the cancellation of the bronze-medal winning results of Andrei Korneyev, a swimmer, and Zafar Guliyev, a Greco-Roman wrestler. Both tested positive

Overpowered

Basketball: The Dream Team III advanced to the semi-finals in typical overpowering fashion, beating Brazil 98-75, despite an early challenge from five-time Olympian, Oscar Schmidt. They play against Australia today for a place in the final after Australia stunned Croatia 73-71. The other semi-final pairs the European champions, Yugoslavia, and Lithuania, the 1992 bronze medal-winners.

Ge and Gu win

Badminton: China's Ge Fei and Gu Jun won the women's badminton doubles title, beating South Korea's Gil Young Ah and Jang Hye Ock 15-5, 15-5.

Holland set for gold in dressage

HOLLAND are within sight of their first dressage gold medal after an outstanding test from Anky van Grunsven on Bonfire that has given them a narrow lead over Isabell Werth, Germany's world champion, on Gigolo, in the grand prix special yesterday, the second leg of the individual contest (Jenny MacArthur writes).

Van Grunsven, 28, who had been disappointed with her second place in the grand prix on Sunday, has a two-day score of 153.39 — just over a point ahead of Werth. With her best phase, the freestyle to music, still to come on Saturday, van Grunsven, the world freestyle champion, now looks set to break the German stranglehold on this event.

Richard Davison, the only Briton in the event, missed qualifying for the final leg but acquitted himself well, earning 1,397 marks on the nine-year-old Askari, the youngest horse in the competition.

Michael Whitaker, who suspected his horse, Two Step, had pulled a muscle after his 22.50 faults in the individual showjumping qualifier on Monday, said the horse was "much better" and ready to jump in the team event today.

Archery

Women's individual

THIRD ROUND (first three in each heat to semi-finals; remainder to repechage): Heat one: 1. M. Oly (Lat) 22-65; 2. K. Mary (GB) 22-65; 3. A. Bello (V) 23-64; 4. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 5. A. Bello (V) 23-64; 6. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 7. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 8. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 9. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 10. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 11. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 12. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 13. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 14. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 15. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 16. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 17. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 18. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 19. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 20. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 21. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 22. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 23. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 24. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 25. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 26. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 27. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 28. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 29. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 30. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 31. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 32. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 33. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 34. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 35. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 36. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 37. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 38. S. Bello (V) 23-64; 39. S. 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The rich? Shooting's too good for them

The hills are alive with the sound of gunfire, but at least equality has arrived on the slopes. The Julie Andrews types have been allowed to put aside their falsettos and take up arms alongside their husbands, who are often called Ralph and pronounced Rafe.

Guns are a dodgy subject just at the moment but last night's *Inside Story*: The Last Guns (BBC1) was right to avoid the wider issues, though one felt a passing chill when one woman moved her weapon from an unlocked kitchen cupboard and announced this arrangement had been approved by the police.

The upper classes indulging in slaughter as a hobby are easy prey, so to speak. Their tweeds, their accents, their labradors and their attitudes are routinely mocked by town-dwelling saboteurs, whose mix of romanticism and ignorance will eventually have hunting

banned. This will prevent *hot* pot shooting pheasants; it will also prevent me catching fish.

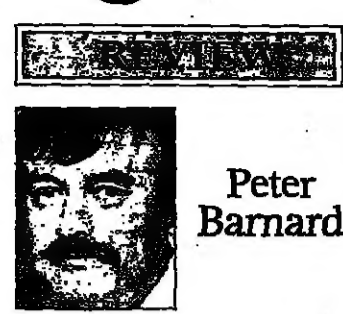
Quite how we shall cut weak and sick deer or kill vermin such as foxes or provide a living for gamekeepers, beaters and uncounted others come that brave new world has not been made clear. But trust women to get a place in the killing fields just as the enemy tanks are fully revved-up.

Inside Story went hunting in Sussex, Oxfordshire, Yorkshire and Scotland. Deer fell over and pheasants crashed earthwards, but the saddest breed on show was homo sapiens, male variety. "Women are like grey squirrels," said one, "they're forcing the normal species out." Another's eyes rolled, if not entirely seriously, at the prospect of a pregnant female on the rampage. A woman was bad enough, apparently, but "a hormonal woman..." It hardly bore thinking about.

The hormonal woman in question was Amanda Congreve, star of last year's *32 years old, warty as a picture and pregnant*. She had been a townie who managed a nightclub, but her husband Ralph pronounced Rafe soon changed all that. Amanda is aware that some men, though not Rafe's Ralph, resent women with guns: "They think we're a bit of a joke."

Pheasants felled by Amanda's gun expressed no view, being dead on arrival at the microphone. But Amanda, hormonal though she may be, does draw the line. She would not shoot geese: "Maybe that's because I'm a woman and a bit sentimental." Or because a goose has a tendency to behave like a sitting duck.

There are 10,000 shoots in Britain and they cost between £200 and £2,000 a day for each gun. At the lower end of this scale there are plenty of shopkeepers and the like



Peter Barnard

who go hunting, but television documentary makers tend to prefer reinforcing stereotypes. They have an agenda and one should be mindful of it.

So the focus was on rather well-off people with rather large tracts of land who use the word rather a lot. But that is appearance, not substance. They come across as people who know they are fortunate and who care about

the environment in which their good fortune is spent.

The alternative to rich people behaving the way rich people should is not a pretty sight, as was demonstrated in *Shades of Downward Nobility* (Channel 4). This was about those who have left the clear waters of upstream society for the mudbanks far below.

They include Sophie Buchanan Watt, a member of the Duke of Hamilton's family. Sophie used up some tabloid ink a year or two back, over her penchant for "exotic dancing", a calling she now purports in New York City attempts to work out Sophie's exact relationship to the duke have failed, so I will leave it to you: her mother is a first cousin of the duke; do carry on from there.

Kirsty, the aforesaid mother, has no problem with Sophie being what mother calls a "go-go dancer". Kirsty thinks this is a "modern

version of the can-can". Judged by the footage from New York, more clothing goes than it ever did in the can-can, but never mind.

Sophie's father, Nigel, takes a somewhat more oblique view, using personality analysis as a substitute for just coming right out with it: "It's her artistic temperament that isolates her. I think possibly I'd describe her as a late developer." Sophie is 28.

John Wroath is the son of a gaffer, indeed John appeared in court for some misdemeanour the day before his father was made a judge. (This is further evidence for my contention that the man who called his autobiography *Sorry, Dad* had come up with the greatest title in the history of literature.)

Anyway, John is a shaven-headed Chelsea supporter who sings with a band called the Wayward Sons. Whereas Sophie

could not quite articulate her present condition, John could: "It suddenly hit me, I don't want to do it. I want to play my guitar and I want to be in band. It's going to upset a lot of people, it'll buck the system, but it's what I want to do."

Fortunately, Judge Wroath is sanguine. He had "seen a great many friends put a lot of their unfulfilled dreams and ambitions into their children". This, he felt, had to be avoided at all costs. And blood is thicker than water, however diluted with rebellion. John and father still reside on the Isle of Wight. Sophie remains "reliant on friends and family for survival".

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (28284)

7.00 Olympic Breakfast. The best of the overnight action from Atlanta. Featuring the 400m hurdles final; boxing quarter-finals and the semi-finals of the football and men's hockey (s) (75555)

9.00 News (Ceejay) (9537178)

9.05 Olympic Grandstand. More extended highlights including the decathlon, diving, boxing and volleyball (s) (3123672)

12.35pm Neighbours (Ceejay) (s) (8050642)

1.00 News & Weather (Ceejay) (50842)

1.30 Regional News (4233791)

1.40 Olympic Grandstand. The decathlon continues with the 110m hurdles and the discus. Alex Kruger follows in the footsteps of Dale Thompson for Britain. There is also coverage of the singles final in the men's and women's badminton competitions (s) (73407284)

5.35 Neighbours (i) (Ceejay) (s) (490710)

6.00 News & Weather (Ceejay) (52)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (84)

7.00 Essential Olympics. Desmond Lynam looks back at last night's athletics, when five gold medals were decided and previews tonight's final of the men's 200m. There is live action from the men's tennis semi-finals and the showjumping. Plus news from the closing stages of the hockey tournament (Ceejay) (s) (88197)

8.30 EastEnders: Blossom comes a cropper during her lunch-hour. Sanjay acquires an admirer. Ruth takes Kathy into her confidence and Phil has a trying day in court (Ceejay) (s) (3449)

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (Ceejay) (6888)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly. Deborah and Dorothy are away for the weekend, so the visiting girls next door are invited over for a night of fun. Last in the series (Ceejay) (s) (8585)

10.00 Atletico Parake. Amateur football sitcom. Coach Sonny has a unique idea for improving the balance of his players. This is very good news for Jack, who is being left distinctly imbalanced by the antics of his cheating wife, Karen (Ceejay) (s) (94888)

10.30 Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces more live action from Atlanta. 10.45 Showjumping or hockey. Action from either the final of the team showjumping or the bronze medal match of the women's hockey if Britain are involved (12.10am Athletics: Men and women's 200m semi-finals 12.30 Women's 1500m semi-finals 12.55 Men's 1500m semi-finals 1.25 Men's 400m hurdles final 1.45 Women's 200m final 2.00 Men's 200m final 2.15 Men's 5000m semi-finals 2.40 Boxing 2.40 Yachting, boxing, table tennis, basketball, volleyball 3.30 Athletics: The conclusion of the decathlon (s) (1740420)

4.25 FILM: Born to Be Bad (1950). A cynical femme-fatale arrives in San Francisco and embarks upon two relationships which are initiated merely for her own financial gain and finally result in love. Starring Jean Fontaine, Robert Ryan, Robert Scott, Joan Leslie, Mel Ferrer and Harold Vermylen. Directed by Nicholas Ray (Dolby) (534442) Ends 5am

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes which, when used with a VideoPlus+ "handset", tell the Video PlusCode decoder (VPC) which video programme to display on the screen. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (3371) 9.00 Press Your Luck (336377) 9.30 Love Connection (1187255) 9.45 CBS News This Morning (1188) 9.50 Beyond 2000 (4197) 10.00 SportsCenter (2330) 10.30 CBS Evening News (16107) 10.35 CBS Evening News Tonight (16107) 10.40 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 11.00 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 11.30 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 11.55 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 12.00 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 12.30 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 12.55 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 1.00 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 1.30 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 1.55 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 2.00 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 2.30 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 2.55 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 3.00 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 3.30 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 3.55 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 4.00 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 4.30 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 4.55 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 5.00 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 5.30 CBS World News Tonight (16107) 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